

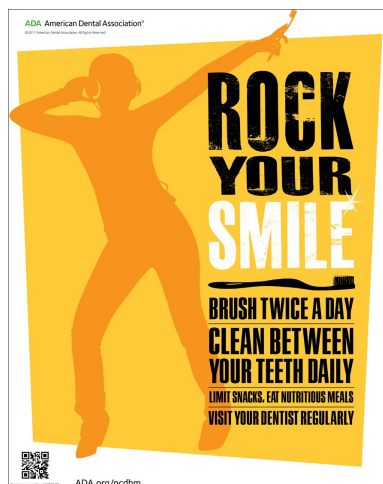


## February is National Children's Dental Health Month!

Flowers, chocolates and candy hearts—it must be February! While most of us dedicate February to putting a smile on our Valentine's face, dental professionals dedicate the month to keeping those smiles healthy. On February 8, 1949, the American Dental Association (ADA) declared the first National Children's Dental Health Day. Later it was extended to a month-long celebration known today as National Children's Dental Health Month.

Each February, professionals around the nation raise awareness for children's dental health to assure a lifetime of healthy smiles. Teachers and school nurses give dental health lesson plans. Dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants give back to their communities through programs that improve access to

dental care and provide oral health education. All share the message that dental health is an important part of children's overall health.

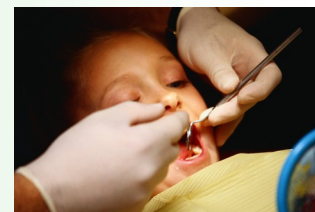


The first step on the road to healthy teeth and gums is the dental office. A regular check-up by a dentist provides complete care that can include prevention,

education, treatment and emergency services. The dentist checks for any problems, helps parents learn how to care for teeth, and correct habits like thumb-sucking. Having a dentist that you regularly see for these services means you have a dental home! Children should start seeing a dentist by their first birthday. Dental care must start early as baby teeth begin to appear around age six months and are important for holding space in the jaws for the growing adult teeth. Children need healthy teeth to chew and speak properly. Think of dental visits for infants and toddlers as "well baby check-ups" for the teeth. Dental care continues to be a need as children enter school and through the teen years. It is important to keep up with regular dental care as children grow. Good oral health is an important part of assuring a good start in life.

### LOCAL SPOTLIGHT: CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH—STRENGTHENING A SYSTEM OF CARE

In Scott County, dental and health professionals meet regularly to improve the system of dental care for children in our community. As a result, dental resources in the Quad Cities have expanded in recent years. Dentists are looking at new ways to provide dental homes for children. The Give Kids A Smile® mobile dental clinic visits schools all across the Quad Cities. Oral health services are now available at Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinics and many preschools. Community Health Care, Inc. has expanded its dental clinics and service locations. I-Smile™ links Scott County children to services and helps families overcome barriers to dental care. If you have trouble finding a dentist, ask for help! Plenty of dentists in the Quad Cities would love to care for your child. For help connecting with local dentists and programs, call I-Smile™ at (563) 326-8645.



**SCOTT COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Scott County Administrative Center, 4th Floor

600 West 4th Street

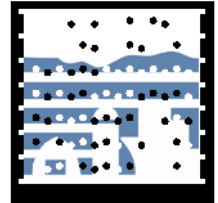
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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Scott County Board of Health Meeting  
Thursday, February 16, 2012; 12:00-1:00 p.m.  
*Open to the Public. Location: Scott County  
Administrative Center, Board Room-1st Floor*

### OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department is committed to promoting, protecting and preserving the health of the community by providing leadership and direction as advocates for the individual, the family, the community and the environment we serve.

### OUR VISION:

As recognized and respected leaders in serving and protecting our citizens, we at the Scott County Health Department are committed to a safer, healthier community and environment. In so doing, we provide a multitude of services with Professionalism, Responsiveness, Involvement, Dedication, and Excellence.



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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.