



Forsyth

ForsythKids



What We Do

ForsythKids builds healthy communities by improving children's oral health where they live and learn.

The program brings preventive dental care to Massachusetts children of all ages at schools, day care centers, neighborhood facilities, summer camps, and public events.

ForsythKids provides services including:

- A dental exam, which detects cavities
- Teeth cleanings
- Fluoride varnish to strengthen teeth
- Sealants to prevent bacteria and food particles from getting caught in the grooves of teeth
- Guidance on proper care of teeth
- Free toothbrushes and toothpastes
- Referrals to dentists for treatment of existing decay



The Need

- Tooth decay is the most common chronic early childhood disease in the U.S.
- 1 in 4 children has a cavity by the time they enter kindergarten
- Dental disease has a negative impact on a child's capacity to learn, speak clearly, receive adequate nutrition, and even get a good night's sleep
- Children with poor oral health are nearly three times more likely to miss school as a result of dental pain
- CDC research shows early preventative dental care works and decreases the number of children ages 2 to 5 with cavities in baby teeth

Early childhood cavities present higher risk for:

- New cavities in both baby and adult teeth
- Hospitalization and emergency room visits
- Delayed physical growth and development
- Loss of school days, restricted activity, and diminished ability to learn
- Increased treatment costs
- Diminished oral quality of life



By the Numbers

- Since 2010, **ForsythKids** has helped more than **17,000 students** in Massachusetts receive critical oral health care
- In 2018-2019, the program served **more than 2,500 children** and young adults at **60 sites** in eastern Massachusetts
- As of December 2018, **more than 80%** of teeth that had sealants placed by ForsythKids professionals during the 2015-2016 school year remain cavity free