

# Healthy Children

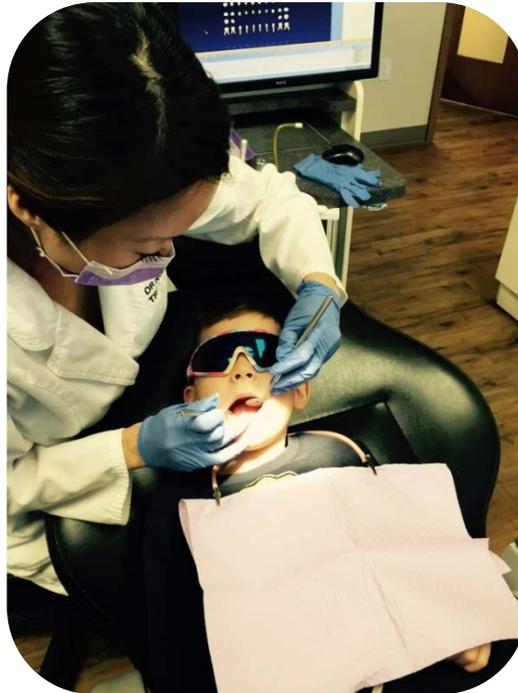
January 2020 Parent Newsletter

## Seal Out Tooth Decay

Food and bacteria stick easily to the deep grooves and small pits on the chewing surfaces of molar teeth making them hard to keep clean. Dental sealants are thin plastic coatings that cover the chewing surfaces of teeth to make them easy to clean and help prevent tooth decay.

It is best if children get sealants on their permanent molars as soon as they come in. The first permanent molars usually come in around ages 5-7 and the second permanent molars around ages 11 to 14. Other teeth with grooves and pits can also benefit from sealants.

Having sealants put on is safe, simple, and painless. Sealants are painted on as a liquid that quickly hardens to form a cover over the chewing surface. After sealants are placed you can



drink and eat right away. Sealants can last many years, but need to be checked regularly to make sure they are not chipped away or worn away. They can easily be repaired by adding more sealant material. They are also much less expensive than the cost to fix teeth due to decay.

Fluoride also works to prevent tooth decay but is most effective on the smooth surface of teeth. The chewing surfaces of our back teeth need the additional protection of dental sealants.

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Bacteria are becoming more resistant to the drugs we treat the disease with (antibiotics). Vaccination decreases the impact of this by preventing people from becoming infected with those resistant germs. Vaccination also means we don't have to treat people as often with antibiotics. For more information visit

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/86/2/07-040089/en/>

**Sealant + Fluoride = Best Protection Against Tooth Decay**



Alberta Health  
Services

## Being Mentally Healthy

The terms mental health and mental illness are often used to mean the same thing, but in reality, they are different. Everyone has mental health; not everyone has a mental illness like depression. Having good mental health helps us manage our emotions, care about others and cope with problems. It's important for kids and adults alike.

The importance of learning social and emotional skills that help keep us mentally healthy are sometimes overlooked at school because of the emphasis on academic success. However, research shows a strong link between having social emotional skills, being resilient and having school success. Children who have developed social and emotional skills find it easier to manage themselves related to others, resolve conflict, do better in school and feel positive about themselves and the world around them. Family life is our first “classroom” for social and emotional learning.



As a parent, you can be a strong positive influence on your child’s social and emotional growth and you can reflect and build on your own skills, helping you and your child in the process. Here are 5 areas you and your child can learn more about and work to improve.

**Self-awareness:** Know your emotions and recognize their impact on your behaviour.

**Self-management:** Know how to control your emotions and behaviours in challenging times and how to set and work towards goals.

**Social awareness:** Understand, respect and have empathy for all people and their perspectives.

**Relationship skills:** Know how to establish healthy relationships with others by communicating clearly, listening, cooperating, managing conflict, resisting peer pressure and seeking and offering help.

**Responsible decision making:** Understand how your choices impact you and others.

Adapted from [www.parenttoolkit.com](http://www.parenttoolkit.com) and [www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org)