



St Louis Children's Hospital

Health Kids Express Dental Program
**Doing What's Right for Kids...Every patient,
every family, every day!**

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What is the Healthy Kids Express Dental Program?

The HKE Dental program has a unique delivery model...it brings the dental office to you.

- Unique Approach

- The Healthy Kids Express Dental program is one of 15 community outreach programs under St. Louis Children's Hospital's Child Health Advocacy and Outreach Department
- SLCH has operated the Healthy Kids Express Dental program since 2003 and treated more than 6,500 children free of charge
- Unexpected, interesting, colorful, memorable environment

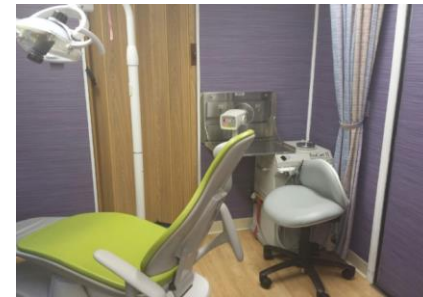
- Proven Design

- 40 foot van uses space efficiently to maximize supplies and amenities while maintaining ability to provide space and comfort
- Ipads for patients to test what they know about nutrition and mechanical plaque removal at initial visit as well as dental education apps to teach ways to improve oral hygiene



Delivery Model

- Two Fully Functional Operatory Rooms
- Portable imaging and digital radiography
 - Nomad and Patterson Schick Sensor
- Waiting Room with DVD entertainment and dental-specific educational viewing
- Restroom
- Wheelchair accessibility



Delivery Model (cont'd)

- Since kids today are bombarded with many forms of information sources (tv, video games, books, tablets), HKE Dental decided to take advantage of this reality and use Multiple avenues from which kids can aggregate data to convey a central message to increase dental health literacy and to reduce dental anxiety
- Modeling
- “Tell, Show, Do”
- Distraction
 - Buzzy – temperature and vibration stimulation away from site of local anesthetic administration
- Digital Entertainment
 - Games on Ipad e.g. Dr Dino, I Want to Brush Teeth/I Hate to Brush Teeth
 - Videos e.g. Dudley and Dee Dee in Plaqueland, Heroes versus Plaque
- Printed Materials
 - Puzzles
 - Word finds
 - Books – Show me Your Smile: Dora the Explorer a Trip to the Dentist



Delivery Model: Building Courage in Kids

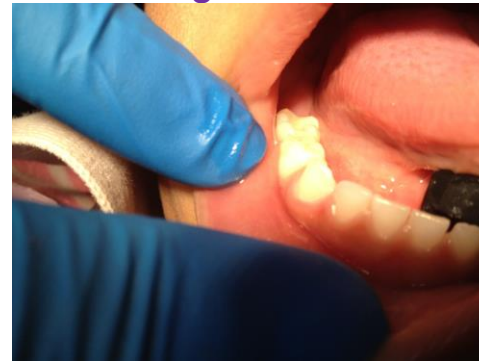
- Most children want to feel proficient and partner with adults to rise to the occasion and demonstrate bravery.

- The key: they need the support
- They are able to be “little but do big things” with encouragement accompanied by an appropriate sense of control and respect.
- Allow Patient to make up hand signals for starting and breaking of the procedure that staff honor



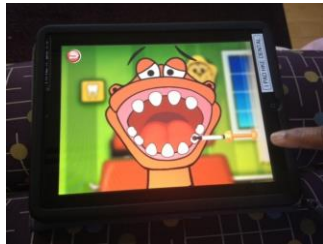
Scope of Care: Comprehensive Dental Services to Kids ages 3-21 years of age

- The HKE dental van is equipped to provide digital radiography, prophylaxis cleanings, scaling and root planing, composite restorations, stainless steel crowns, pulpotomies, extractions, topical fluoride application
- This 4 year old little girl had 8 areas of dental decay
- Snapshot of decay at the gingiva of a primary canine (quite common in preschoolers who don't have the dexterity to properly remove plaque in that area & the key reason why we encourage parents to follow up their brushing their kids' teeth until age 8)



Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Challenge:** 25% of the patients served on the HKED van are new to the US with English as a second language bombarded with information from schools, healthcare providers, public transportation companies, etc.



- **Solutions:**

- Work with BJC certified medical interpreters in families preferred language spoken language at sites for whom ESL for families (via telephone/headsets)
- BJC Certified languages has capacity to address 80 spoken languages and consents/post op instructions in commonly encountered written languages: Spanish, Nepali, Bosnian, Somali, French, Arabic
- Aggregate information from multiple visual/media sources to convey a cohesive message
 - Regular visits to the dentist to check teeth and strengthen teeth with fluoride are key
 - Consistent, daily plaque removal at home supports dental visits
 - Reduction in consumption of sugary, highly processed foods that mouth “bugs” love is the third line of defense in caries reduction





Key Tools For Success In Replicating the Program



- Community Needs Assessment to discern what is most needed by potential patients
- Secure renewal funding prior to advent of program
- Ongoing Internal and External Evaluation of clinical quality, education to constantly improve as an entity and meet the dynamic/changing needs of the community we wish to serve
- Develop relationships with pediatric-friendly FQHC's and private offices who offered nitrous oxide or intravenous sedation due to patients with extensive treatment plans and high levels of dental anxiety
- Strong IS/IT infrastructure and continued support to address need for immediate access to patient registration, diagnostic images, & treatment plan data when moving around geographically to urban as well



Wrap Up



Please share your comments and questions.

Let's Stay Connected!

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