



SCHOOL HOSTS “GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY”

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Officially, Friday, February 5th, 2010, is “Give Kids A Smile Day”, and the entire month of February is National Children’s Dental Health Awareness Month.

In conjunction with these observances, The Goddard School for Early Childhood Development, www.goddardschools.com, located at 255 Route 70, in Toms River, is offering a day of dental care for all its students and families on Tuesday, February 9, starting at 10:30 AM, through the courtesy of Ocean Pediatric Dental Associates, on Lakehurst Road in Toms River.

While the observance of a Dental Health Day actually began back in 1941, in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, the concept spread quickly, and the first national observance of Children’s Dental Health Day occurred in February of 1949. And, what was originally, just a single-day event, then expanded to a week-long event in 1955. Finally, in 1981, the program expanded to a month-long program promoted by the American Dental Association (ADA) and known today as National Children’s Dental Health Month.

This national observance intends to promote the benefits of good oral health to children and adults, caregivers, teachers and all others. Every year, sponsors of the observance, work to raise awareness about the importance of good oral health, because developing good dental habits and scheduling regular dental visits at an early age helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.

In the past, these observances were generally restricted to poster, coloring and essay contests, health fairs, museum exhibits, group presentations and dental-facility tours.

Because the health, safety and general well-being of children is always the focus at The Goddard School, this new initiative is based on the premise that early intervention and prevention are critical for establishing a healthy lifestyle, and that even small changes can have a positive impact on both short-term and long-term health. Children learn that brushing and flossing their teeth can really be fun. Each child leaves the event with a free toothbrush and a “report card” about their dental health.

The ADA estimates that over 5 million children have chronic dental problems that give them trouble eating, sleeping, AND learning. Tooth decay greatly restricts the daily activities of children and results in the loss of many millions of hours from schooling each year.

“One out of every four children has some tooth decay, and fifty percent of them don’t get treated,” says Dana Chibbaro , owner and operator of The Route 70 Goddard School. “Tooth decay is still one of the most common childhood diseases, despite all the improvements in dental care today,” she echos. “Experts say that tooth decay is more common in children than asthma.”

By participating in the annual celebration of National Children’s Dental Health Month with Ocean Pediatric, The Goddard School is proud to partner with members of the health community, parents and others to help keep children smiling now and for all the years to come.

The Goddard School is an award-winning preschool and child-care center committed to broadening and enriching the lives of children. The teachers at the School offer early education programs for infants, toddlers, and preschool children from 6-weeks through 6-years of age. For more information, call Dana Chibbaro, at (732) 363-5530, or visit the school on the internet at www.goddardschools.com