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Dear parents and teachers,

Welcome to Grin! for Kids, a publication from Delta Dental. We believe learning about oral health can be fun, which is why we've developed engaging activities, crafts and more to keep kids interested in the importance of a healthy smile. Whether you work with children at home or in the classroom, Grin! for Kids is a great way to start a dialogue about good dental habits.

Have fun!





How much time should a person spend brushing his or her teeth every year?

More than 24 hours!*

* If you brush the recommended amount: twice per day, two minutes each time.

How is your tongue like your fingerprint?

They're both totally unique!



BEFORE THERE WERE toothbrushes

You brush your teeth twice a day with a toothbrush, maybe even one with your favorite cartoon characters on it. And the toothpaste you put on your toothbrush probably tastes pretty good, like mint, bubble gum or strawberry. BUT IT WASN'T ALWAYS THAT WAY!

Toothpaste made from

BONES AND CRUSHED SHELLS?

That's how the ancient Greeks used to keep their teeth clean.

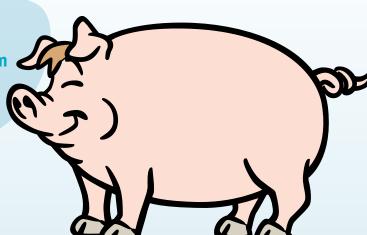




Ancient Egyptians USED TWIGS that were frayed at the end to brush their teeth.

In the 1400s, people in China made toothbrush bristles from HAIR FOUND ON PIGS! NECKS!

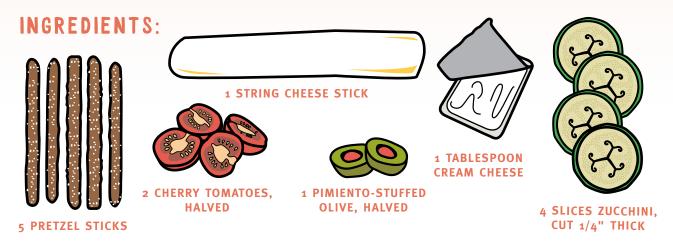




mouth-friendly recipe:

ter SNACKS

Combine playtime and snack time by building a mini scooter you can eat.



DIRECTIONS:

- Make axles and wheels for your scooter by putting a zucchini slice on each end of two pretzel sticks.
- Lay the string cheese stick across both axles.
- Dab cream cheese on one end of the string cheese.
- Insert two pretzel sticks into the cream cheese side-by-side vertically.
- To create handlebars, use another dab of cream cheese to affix a pretzel stick horizontally across the top of the two pretzel sticks.
- For hubcaps, add a cherry tomato half to each end of your zucchini slices.
- Use cream cheese to stick an olive headlight and tail light to each end of the string cheese.

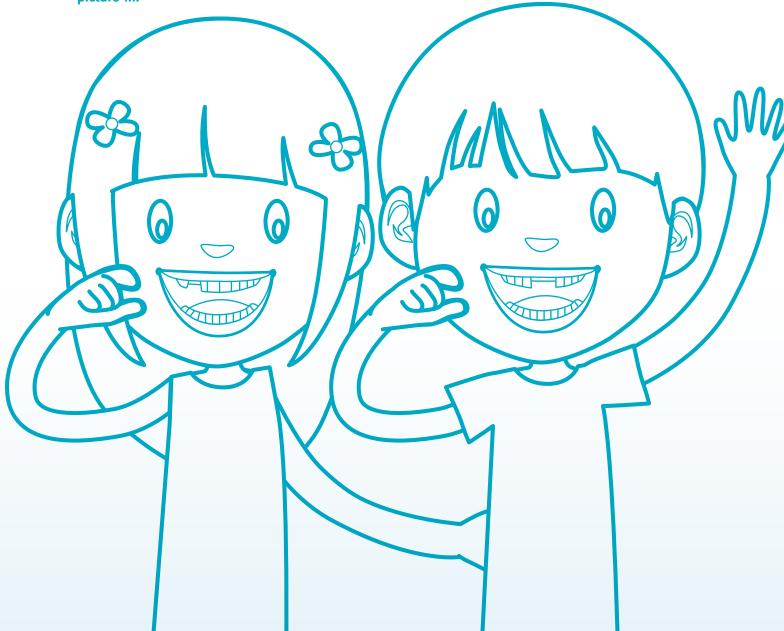




LOST: YOUR

Even though you only have baby teeth for a few years, it's important to take good care of them. Healthy baby teeth help you chew food and speak properly. They also save room for your permanent teeth.

Help these kids keep their teeth healthy by drawing toothbrushes in their hands. Then, color the picture in!





Keep track of the teeth you've lost by coloring them in when you lose them. You can also write down when and where you lost your tooth, if you remember! Store the Tooth Tracker somewhere safe so you can color the next tooth you lose.

FUN FACT

Your teeth usually fall out in the order they came in!



DATE OF TOOTH LOST

	top teeth	bottom teeth			
1 _	6	11	16		
2	7	12	17		
3	8	13	18		
4 _	9	14	19		
5 _	10	15	20		

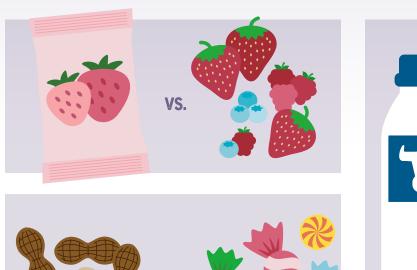


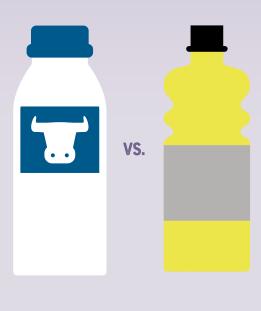


TRY THIS SHOCKING EXPERIMENT.

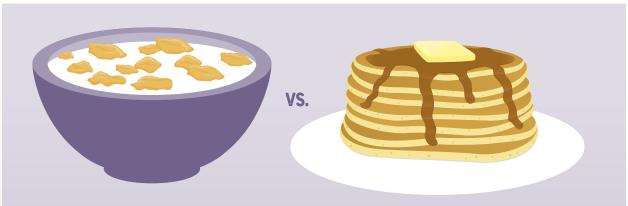
With the help of an adult, get a measuring teaspoon and a bag of sugar. Pick one of the items shown above. Using the teaspoon, scoop the amount of sugar listed for that item into a bowl. You'll be surprised how quickly the sugar adds up! (When finished, just pour the sugar back into the bag.)

CIRCLE) THE ITEM IN EACH GROUP THAT CONTAINS LESS SUGAR AND IS HEALTHIER FOR YOUR TEETH.









SOMETIMES YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE FOOD OR DRINKS WITH SUGAR IN THEM. YOU CAN'T ALWAYS AVOID SUGAR, SO MAKE SURE YOU DO A GOOD JOB OF BRUSHING AND FLOSSING TO KEEP YOUR TEETH CLEAN AND HEALTHY.

ANSWER KEY: Berries, nuts, milk and cereal.



TIC-TAC-TOOTH



Skip the boring X's and O's – play Tic-Tac-Tooth instead! Grab a partner and decide who will draw toothbrushes and who will draw teeth. The first person picks a box to draw his or her symbol in. (You have four grids, so take turns going first.) Then, the second person gets to place a symbol in an empty box. Whoever is first to get three symbols in a straight line wins! YOU CAN WIN WITH A LINE GOING UP AND DOWN, ACROSS OR DIAGONAL.

Keep your MOUTH HEALTHY

From brushing your teeth to eating good foods, there are lots of ways to help keep your mouth healthy. Can you find five items that help keep your smile in good shape?



BRUSHING & FLOSSING CALENDAR

To keep your teeth healthy, you need to brush them for two minutes twice a day using fluoride toothpaste. And floss once a day. Cut out this chart to help you remember.



KIDS:

Keep this chart in your bathroom.
Check the box each morning you brush and each night you brush and floss.

PARENTS:

Center this chart in an 8 x 10 frame and use a dry-erase marker on the glass so you can reuse the same sheet over and over. It's also a cute piece to hang in your bathroom!

DECORATE THE CALENDAR BY COLORING IT OR ADDING STICKERS!



Tooth

There's a lot more to teeth than what you can see from the outside. Here's a closer look at what's inside every tooth.

This is the part of the tooth you can see above your gums.

This is a layer of tissue between the enamel and pulp.

Enamel

The crown of your tooth is covered with enamel, a hard substance that helps you bite and chew.

Pulp

This is a soft material inside of your tooth.

Root

The root is the largest part of your tooth, but it's below your gums, so you can't see it. It helps keep your tooth "planted" in your mouth.

Nerves and blood vessels

These are inside of the pulp. They bring good vitamins and minerals to your teeth to keep them healthy.

Cementum

This is a layer of bone-like material that covers the tooth root.

That's a lot of stuff packed into each little tooth! It's something to think about the next time you brush and floss.

MOUTHGUARD MADNESS

Mouthguards are pretty amazing! They're just little, bendy pieces of plastic, but mouthguards can protect your mouth from jaw injuries, cuts on your lips and tongue, and even broken or lost teeth.



If you play a sport or enjoy activities where you could hurt your mouth by falling, getting hit by something or running into someone, you should wear a mouthguard. Look at the pictures below and circle the activities that require a mouthguard for protection.







STAIN EGGS-PERIMENT

Some drinks can leave stains on your teeth – but which drinks? Try soaking eggs in different liquids to see if any of them dye the shells. What do you think will happen?



THE MOUTHFUL

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP? A DENTIST? A SCIENTIST? HOW ABOUT BOTH – A DENTAL SCIENTIST? GRAB YOUR LAB COAT AND GET A GROWN-UP TO HELP YOU WITH THESE TWO FUN EXPERIMENTS.





ELEPHANT TOOTHPASTE

Because you're a human, it only takes a pea-size amount of toothpaste on your toothbrush to keep your mouth clean. If you were an elephant, though, it would take tons of toothpaste. Get ready to see what elephant toothpaste might look like!



DIRECTIONS:

WARM WATER

- 1 Place your empty bottle on a tray.
- With the help of a grown-up, mix the yeast and the warm water together in a separate bowl.

(OPTIONAL)



PEROXIDE (6%)

SOAP

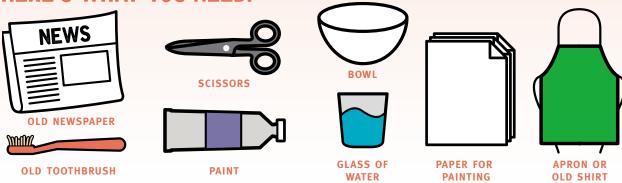
THE MOUTHFUL



TURN YOUR OLD TOOTHBRUSH INTO A PAINTBRUSH!

Did you know you should replace your toothbrush every three months? That's when the bristles usually start looking worn out. You should also get a new toothbrush if the bristles look frayed. Instead of just throwing the old one away, turn your toothbrush into a paintbrush! The bristles will make some fun patterns. Try it out with the help of a grown-up.

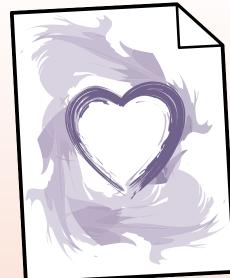
HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED:



DIRECTIONS:

- Cover a flat surface, such as a table or counter, with newspaper or butcher paper. You may also want to wear an old shirt or apron. Painting can be messy!
- Put a blank piece of paper in the middle of the newspaper. Cut a shape out of another piece of paper and lay it in the middle of the blank sheet to act as a stencil.
- Put paint in bowls. You'll need one bowl for each color of paint you want to use.
- Fill a cup with water. Dip the toothbrush in water, then in paint. Hold the toothbrush so the bristles face the paper.
- Using the toothbrush, paint around the shape to create an outline on the blank piece of paper.
- Remove the stencil to reveal the picture underneath! Be sure to wash your hands when you're done.

YOU CAN TRY WATERCOLOR OR ACRYLIC PAINTS, EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT SHAPES, MIX DIFFERENT COLORS, TRY DIFFERENT BRUSHING PATTERNS - THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!



HEALTHY MOUTH MARCH

Test your memory – and your dental knowledge – with this match game. Cut out the squares along the dotted lines, then mix them all up and lay them picture side down. Take turns with a partner trying to find the images that match.

THE PLAYER WITH THE MOST MATCHES AT THE END OF THE GAME WINS!



Brush your teeth in oval-shaped motions for the most cleaning power.



A pea-size amount of toothpaste is all you need.



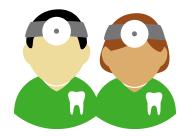
Most kids lose their first baby tooth around age 6.



For a healthy smile, eat lots of fruits and vegetables.



You should use 18 inches every time you floss.



Visit your dentist regularly to keep your smile healthy.



Protect your teeth by wearing a mouthguard.



Humans have 20 baby teeth and 32 permanent teeth.



Remember to brush your tongue!



Fluoride toothpaste helps prevent cavities.



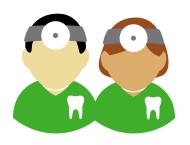
Most kids have all their permanent teeth by age 13.



Vitamin C found in foods like berries and broccoli can help with healthy gums.



Don't forget to floss the back side of your back teeth!



You're never too young to visit the dentist!



Wear a mouthguard for activities such as volleyball, soccer and skateboarding.



Teeth are protected by a hard shell called enamel.

