

"Forever Smiles" Children's Dentistry Initiative Coming To St. Lucie To Promote Affordable Oral Health

**FOREVER
SMILES**
children's dentistry



we cherish every single child

The Florida Department of Health In St. Lucie County is excited to announce the new "Forever Smiles" initiative, where the goal is to provide affordable, high-quality children's dentistry to approximately 21,000 children living in the cities of Port St. Lucie and Ft. Pierce.

According to Clint Sperber, Health Officer and Administrator for of the Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County, "early dental care keeps children healthy, and this collaborative project helps to reach more children".

Currently, traditional dental insurance excludes approximately 21,000 children in the county and as such, many parents are forced to forgo dental care which leads poor dental health, infection, pain, inadequate tooth function and tooth loss; impaired nutrition and inadequate speech development; costly emergency department visits; or often, poor school performance. The Department of Health has partnered with a number of Medicaid HMOs' and Healthy Kids insurance plans to assist with the cost of dental care. The department will work with parents to determine eligibility and offer discounted rates for those (uninsured/underinsured) applicants that qualify.

The health department has partnered with a number of HMO, Medicaid and Healthy Kids insurance plans to assist with the cost of dental care. In fact, the health department will work with parents to determine eligibility on these insurance plans and offers discounted / sliding fee schedules for those that do not qualify.

The dental services offered through the Forever Smiles program include dental exams, cleaning, x-rays, filling, extractions, and sealants to prevent future decay. The hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with two locations to serve patients in ST. LUCIE WEST (Children Only), 531 NW Lake Whitney Place, Suite 106, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 and FORT PIERCE at 714 Avenue C, Fort Pierce, FL 34950.

For more information about Forever Smiles or to book an appointment for your child, please call 772-462-3800.