

## Amador County Oral Health Task Force provides treatment for children

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It may be easy to dismiss dental care for young children as unnecessary, but these teeth are important to a child's development because they help children chew food and speak clearly.

"Starting good dental health habits when children are young will protect their smiles now - and in the future", said Dr. Craig Kinzer of Jackson Creek Dental Group. "It is very important to take care of baby teeth because they maintain the pathway for the adult teeth."

That's why the Amador County Oral Health Task Force, whose goal is to provide education, screenings, fluoride varnish applications, treatment and dental homes to children, has been providing some of these services at Celebrate Our Children.

"We know the importance of prevention when it comes to health in general and oral health is no exception," said Nina Machado, executive director of First 5 Amador.

This year, Dr. Craig Kinzer led Jackson Creek Dental Group staff - Sandy Garcia and Tanjia Collins - along with Dena Kinzer from Dr. Edward Montalbo's office. They worked with Erika Hagstrom-Dossi of Smile Keepers to provide this important service to children that might not have access to dental services.

Twenty-two fluoride varnish treatments and 15 exams were completed for children that attended the event. The families that participated had children between 1 and 10 years of age.

"Children that are in dental pain have a difficult time concentrating at school and if not caught early, these problems can lead to serious health issues down the road" said Registered Nurse Patty Knobelauch, of the Amador County Unified School District.

"It was encouraging to hear that many children had already received screenings and fluoride varnishes at the various programs that have been offered in the community," reported Machado.

The Amador County Oral Health Task Force would also like to thank Supervisor Ted Novelli for his support of this valuable service.

Contact First 5 at 257-1092 or visit [www.first5amador.com](http://www.first5amador.com) for more information regarding oral health services for children in Amador.



Trinity Machi gets her teeth checked at Celebrate Our Children, held last month at Argonaut High School.

Photo by: [Courtesy to the Ledger Dispatch](#)