



Pre-Visit Information for Schools

Help A
Child Smile®
Mobile Dental Program

Gentle, minimally invasive cavity treatment provided at school.

OUR GOAL

To treat dental disease early while keeping children comfortable, in class, and smiling. Many cavities can be treated without traditional drilling or injections. Two techniques are SDF and SMART restorations.

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF)

- A liquid medicine painted onto a cavity
- Stops cavity progression
- No drilling
- No injections
- Quick (about 30 seconds per tooth)
- Treated area becomes dark as the cavity arrests



SMART Restoration

- SMART = SDF + Glass Ionomer Restoration
- Removes only soft decay with hand instruments
- No drilling
- No injections
- Places a tooth-colored filling
- Releases fluoride and helps protect the tooth



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Will it hurt?

A. Most children tolerate SDF and SMART very well, and local anesthetic is unnecessary.

Q. Why does SDF turn the cavity dark?

A. The dark color indicates the decayed portion of the tooth has been arrested.

Q. Is it safe?

A. Yes. SDF has been used worldwide for many years and is endorsed by major pediatric dentistry organizations for appropriate cases.

Q. Will every cavity qualify?

A. No. The dentist determines the best treatment based on the child's examination.

WHAT STUDENTS CAN EXPECT

- Dental examination
- Discussion of recommended treatment
- Comfortable treatment using SDF or SMART when appropriate
- To return to class immediately after treatment

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

- Comfortable and child-friendly
- Preserves natural tooth structure
- Eliminates the need for drilling
- Helps prevent cavities from getting larger
- Keeps children in school with little or no recovery time

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Encourage families to return signed consent forms.
- Reassure students that treatment is gentle.
- Let families know many cavities can be treated without traditional drilling.
- Contact our team with any questions before the visit.

Thank you for partnering with us to improve children's oral health!

