

KINDERGARTEN ORAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT



What's New for Kindergarten?

Early detection and treatment of dental problems can help children succeed in school. That's why Michigan passed a law making dental assessments required upon entry into a child's first year of school.

KOHA

The Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) is a new program that is similar to Michigan's Hearing and Vision Screening Programs and is also provided by local health departments.

Questions?

Visit:

www.mmdhd.org/dental-care

How do I get my Child's Assessment Completed?

There are two ways your child can meet this new requirement:

A) **Your child can receive their screening while at school**, just like Hearing and Vision screenings. Schools coordinate with the Mid-Michigan District Health Department to provide on-site, no cost dental screenings.

OR

B) Have your dentist complete the state required form, **MDHHS-6280 Certificate of Dental Screening**. Their office can obtain this form from the MDHHS website, then return it to your child's school.

FAQ'S



What is an Oral Health Assessment?

An oral, or dental assessment is simply a look in the mouth by a dental hygienist or dentist to identify cavities, signs of disease, or other oral health problems.

Why are Oral Health Assessments Important?

Dental problems affect school attendance and test scores. Children with untreated decay often have difficulty eating, sleeping, speaking, and concentrating.

How will I know when my child's assessment was completed at school?

Your child will be sent home with a letter showing their assessment was completed and stating any findings such as cavities. If you learn your child has a cavity from your parent letter, they will need to have the cavities treated by a dentist. A cavity does not stop growing on its own and can lead to pain and infection.

What if I don't have a dentist or can't afford one?

A list of local dental providers will be attached to your child's oral assessment parent letter. The Mid-Michigan District Health Department also has a partnership with My Community Dental Centers (MCDC), who ensures healthy mouths, regardless of insurance status and income.

If your child does not have dental insurance, they may be eligible for the Michigan Healthy Kids Dental Program. Healthy Kids Dental is available to children who have Medicaid and are under the age of 21.

To learn more, scan the QR Code or visit:

www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance_programs/healthcare/childrenteens/hkdental



Mid-Michigan District
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CLINTON • GRATIOT • MONTCALM