

# Dental Practice

## Parents responsible for dental care

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### Who is Responsible for the Wellness and Oral Health of our Children?

Who is ultimately responsible for the care and well being of the oral health of our children? (Oral health means the care and repair of the teeth, gums, and tissues of the mouth).

It is up to the parents to see that the skills to keep the teeth clean are taught and reinforced in the home.

How long before the child accepts the responsibility? Research has shown that it takes at least five years in order to learn to care for our own mouths. Proper home care is not learned overnight. Our suggestion for the care of those children up to the age of seven or eight is to encourage brushing and teeth cleaning on their own and once a day have a supervised session.

The child should be reminded and supervised to brush their teeth in the morning after breakfast and once before go-

### Twice a day



ing to bed. When the child has shown his or her ability to successfully take on that responsibility then a periodic check by the parent may be all that is necessary.

**REMEMBER:** Until the age

of three the child cannot brush his own teeth. The parent should wipe or brush the teeth as soon as they come into the mouth.

The role of the school is to reinforce these skills.

The role of the North Slope Borough Dental Clinic is to provide the instruction and the means for the patient to learn how to better care for their own oral health.

The role of our new patient examination oral hygiene instruction by our assistants and our recall program is to add to the information and to continually stress proper brushing techniques.

So, who has the responsibility for the children's wellness and oral health?

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This summer remember to remind your children to take their brush with them when they travel. Also, whether you are home or away let's remind the children to brush every day . . . . .

### SUMMER FREEBEE

Come to the Dental Clinic and get a free tooth brush for the summer.

Have a happy summer . . . from the entire staff of the North Slope Borough Dental Clinic.

