



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 effective with the 2024-25 school year.

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.nwhealth.org

In The Know

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 do I get my Child's Assessment Completed?

Just like Hearing and Vision Screenings, your child can receive their dental assessment while at school. Your child's school coordinates with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, School Oral Health Services Dental Hygienist to provide on-site, no cost screenings.

FAQ'S



What if my child already sees a dentist?

If your child sees a dentist regularly, the assessment can be performed by your dentist. You will need to download the Kindergarten Oral Assessment Form from the MDHHS website, have your dentist fill it out and return it to the school. Even if your child sees a dentist regularly, you can still have the assessment completed by the local health department while your child is at school for no cost, just like their Hearing and Vision Screenings.

Do my older children need an assessment?

The new dental assessment requirement is only for children entering kindergarten, but it is highly recommended that all children see a dentist twice a year.

What if the assessment shows my child has cavities or other dental problems?

Your child will be sent home with a letter stating any findings during their assessment. 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 Health Department of Northwest Michigan has a partnership with Dental Clinic's North (DCN), 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 visit:

[www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance programs/healthcare/childrenteens/hkdental](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance%20programs/healthcare/childrenteens/hkdental)

Learn More:
www.nwhealth.org