



February 2024

National Children's Dental Health Month in Ventura County

WHEREAS, the oral health of our children is a vital part of their overall physical and mental health and wellbeing; good oral hygiene is critical at all stages of life, and it begins in childhood; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year's National Children's Dental Health Month is [Healthy Habits for Healthy Smiles](#), a celebration that was first nationally observed in 1981; and

WHEREAS, this month-long national celebration brings together thousands of dedicated professionals, healthcare providers, and educators to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers and many others; and

WHEREAS, oral health is part of school readiness; when children's teeth and gums are healthy, children are better able to learn and grow; and

WHEREAS, dental decay is the most common chronic disease among U.S. children; dental decay is preventable; and

WHEREAS, the California Education Code 49452.8 established the requirement of an Oral Health Assessment for Kindergartners to be completed by May 31st and for schools to report data by July 1st; with the goal of establishing a dental home early in childhood; and

WHEREAS, during school-based oral health screening in February 2023, Ventura County Building Healthy Smiles Collaborative and dental partners screened 929 kindergartners and 3rd graders and found that 26% had visible decay and 86% had caries experience, all of which are preventable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors proclaims the month of February 2024 as "[National Children's Dental Health Month; Healthy Habits for Healthy Smiles](#)" and urge all citizens and community organizations to join in this observance.

Presented on this 27th Day of February 2024


Matt LaVere, Supervisor 1st District


Chair of the Board of Supervisors
Kelly Long, Supervisor 3rd District


Jeff Gorell, Supervisor 2nd District


Janice S. Parvin, Supervisor 4th District


Vianey Lopez, Supervisor 5th District