Don’t forget to schedule your child’s required dental check-up!

What is the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA)?
To make sure your child is ready for school, California law requires that children have a dental check-up by May 31 in either kindergarten or first grade, whichever is their first year in public school.

Why is it important?
Poor oral health can affect a child’s attendance, grades and overall performance in school. The KOHA helps ensure children are healthy and ready for a successful school year.

SCHOOL READINESS FACTS:
• Children who have poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than children who don’t.
• Children with cavities may also have difficulty eating, talking, and concentrating in school.
• Healthy smiles make children feel confident and good about themselves.
• Establishing good oral health habits in childhood helps create a lifetime of healthy smiles.

Why is it important to have a dental home?
• It allows the dentist to establish a relationship with your family.
• It gives the dentist consistent opportunities to provide preventive treatment and find small issues before they become big.
• Children who develop a familiar relationship with their dentist are less likely to experience dental anxiety and are more likely to visit the dentist regularly into adulthood.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE KOHA:
• Look out for a registration form that will be distributed when you register your child for school.
• Visit or find your dental home.
• Complete a dental check-up 12 months before entering public school for the first time or by May 31st of their first year (Kindergarten or 1st Grade).

Visit SmileCalifornia.org to find your child’s dental home today.

*2018-20 3rd Grade Basic Screening Survey, California Office of Oral Health