



ADA
American Dental Association
www.ada.org

Give Kids A Smile! FAQs

- Q: What is the goal of the Give Kids A Smile! event?**
A: To ensure access to quality dental care for every child in America. Also, to educate children on the lifelong benefits of proper oral hygiene and healthcare.
- Q: How long has the GKAS event been in existence?**
A: 2003 was the first year the event was implemented on a national basis. This will mark the seventh year. It is based on a program developed in St. Louis, MO.
- Q: Is GKAS an annual event?**
A: Yes. The event takes place the first Friday in February each year as part of the Children's Dental Health Month national initiative through the American Dental Association (ADA). It is administered in New Jersey by the New Jersey Dental Association.
- Q: Are all children eligible to participate?**
A: The GKAS event seeks to help all children in need ages 12 and under.
- Q: How are parents alerted about the program?**
A: Alerts are sent to all public and charter school nurses and Head Start programs in New Jersey. These alerts include the event date, contact information and directions for participation along with a list of participating dental sites. This information is also available at www.njda.org/gkas.
- Q: Where can parents get information other than through schools and Head Start?**
A: There is a GKAS Hotline (888-576-9278) a NJ website, www.njda.org/gkas and the ADA's website www.ada.org, all of which have all the information that parents will need. Emails and phone messages will be promptly answered within 24 hours.
- Q: What dental services are available through GKAS?**
A: Services span the gamut from preventive to emergency. Referrals are given on an as-needed basis. Children will also get tips on daily oral hygiene and free toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss where available and while supplies last.
- Q: How much will parents have to pay for the dental services?**
A: The GKAS event is 100% free. There are no costs for any services on GKAS day.
- Q: How many dentists participate in the GKAS event?**
A: More than 1,000 dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants are expected to volunteer for the event at several public and private practice sites in New Jersey.
- Q: What if a child participated last year; can they still participate this year?**
A: Yes, that child can participate. Although GKAS is not intended to be an alternative to regular visits to the dentist, we realize for some children this may be the only access to dental care.