



Pediatric Dental Initiative

Great smiles. Great futures.
Together, we make kids smile.™

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Second Trip to Central Valley Surgicenter a Success

On the morning of August 22, 2006, three-year old Doug Endicott was on his way to the Central Valley Dental Surgicenter in Atwater (near Modesto) to cap what his mother, Elly, thought was six cavities. However, pre-op x-rays showed that Doug's two incisors would need to be removed, and 11 other teeth capped. Doug emerged from the surgery just fine, and was back to his chipper self by the time he returned home to Lake County, a four hour drive north of Atwater. Doug's mother learned a lot from the experience. "I didn't realize that [tooth decay] could begin so early," Elly said. She now recognizes the importance of cleaning a child's teeth starting at a young age. Motivated from the experience, Elly bought an electric toy toothbrush to help make brushing more fun for young Doug, and said she is going to start right away on her one and a half year old son's dental habits.



Doug before surgery to cap 11 teeth



Doug with his PDI sticker bucket

Doug was referred to PDI through Healthy Start in Lake County. PDI coordinated and paid for transportation to the surgery center. Sandra Echavarría, PDI's Case Manager, and Kate Horton, PDI's Americorps*VISTA Volunteer, accompanied Elly and Doug on the eight-hour roundtrip drive.

About PDI. PDI is a non-profit, community-based organization founded by a group of child health advocates to address the unmet oral health needs of children from low-income backgrounds who need anesthesia for dental treatment. PDI's mission is to open a dental surgery center dedicated to serving the oral surgery needs of children in Northern California, regardless of a patients' insurance status or ability to pay. Through dental education and outreach efforts, working with parents and health care providers, PDI hopes to eliminate the pain, suffering and distractions that living with Baby Bottle tooth decay causes. Treatment and education helps build the confidence children need to excel in school and on the playground. For more information about PDI, please visit: www.pedidental.org.

About Baby Bottle Tooth Decay. Baby Bottle Tooth Decay (Early Childhood Caries – ECC) is a major health issue in America today, affecting an estimated 28% of children in California alone, most of whom are children from low-income families with little or no dental insurance. The prevalence of junk food, soda, and juice in children's diets is a major cause of tooth decay, as is poor dental hygiene. Reducing sugar intake, and brushing and flossing daily are important first steps toward healthy teeth. Please contact a dentist for advice.

brush. floss. thrive.™

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