

Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital's Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is coming to your school

Tooth decay is the most common childhood disease in America. When children's teeth or gums hurt, they cannot pay attention in school. They can have trouble sleeping at night, so they can have trouble staying awake or behaving during the day. They can have trouble eating, speaking, and learning.

Children should see a dentist every six months to get their teeth cleaned and check for cavities, but not all kids do. If your child has not seen a dentist in the past year, and your family does not have a regular dentist, a visit to Rainbow's Ronald McDonald Care Mobile could help your child. If you would like your child to get dental care on the Care Mobile, fill out and sign the consent form and return it to your school.

These are the things that will happen on the day of the Care Mobile visit:

- A school helper will take your child from the classroom to the dental van, which has chairs and equipment made just for kids.
- The dental assistant will take an x-ray of your child's teeth, which lets the dentist see cavities hiding between teeth and problems under the gums. It does not hurt and takes only a few seconds.
- Next, your child's teeth will be cleaned. The dentist or dental assistant will use a special toothbrush to clean bacteria called plaque from your child's teeth. Plaque causes tooth decay and cavities (holes in the teeth).
- The dentist will look at your child's teeth and gums and check the x-rays to see if there are cavities or other problems.
- If we find cavities or tooth decay, some problems can be fixed the same day on the Care Mobile. For serious problems, your child might need a second visit to the Care Mobile on another day, or a follow up visit at a dentist's office.
- We will send your child home with a report that lets you know what happened during the visit and tells you if there is any special follow up care your child needs.
- The school helper will take your child back to the classroom.

What is the cost of the dental visit?

If you provide insurance information, you will be billed for any co-pay or deductible required under your plan. If you do not have insurance, you can call the UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital Insurance Access Line (216-983-1500) for assistance in applying. If you do not provide insurance information, be aware that you will receive a bill for the cost of your child's services. The attached information sheet includes details on how to apply for discounted care under the UH Financial Assistance Program. No child will be denied treatment based upon an inability to pay.

If my family has a regular dentist, can my child still get a dental cleaning on the Care Mobile?

No. The Care Mobile provides dental care for children who have not seen a dentist in the past year and do not have a regular dentist. If your child has a dentist, they should visit for a cleaning every six months. See that dentist if your child has any problems or pain. We do not want to get in the way of your child's relationship with a dentist or interrupt children's care plans.