An Inside Look Into Oral Health Books For Children By An Interprofessional Review Team
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**Why?**
Dental caries (i.e., tooth decay) is the most common chronic children’s disease in the United States. To increase access of oral health information to children and families, and to provide guidance to those who purchase books, a list of recommended children’s oral health books was developed.

**Who?**
Interprofessional Review Team:
- Pediatric Dentist • Dental Hygienists • Students (Dental and Dental Hygiene)
- Libraries (Medical and Public) • School Nurse • Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
- Health Education Specialists • Early Childhood Teacher

**How?**
An interprofessional team was convened to:
- Create an evaluation tool to use when reviewing children’s oral health books
- Review oral health books for children ages 0-6

Over 100 children’s oral health books were gathered. The books were reduced to 50 based on availability and desired age range. The team met several times to review the books. The two principal leaders, representing the University of Maryland, Baltimore Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL) and the Maryland Dental Action Coalition, created the final recommended children’s oral health book list based on the review team’s feedback.

**What?**
The final book list is available on the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HS/HSL) website.
http://guides.hshsl.umaryland.edu/dentistry/DentalBooksForChildren

The list is broken down into the following categories:
- Oral Health Care • Visiting the Dentist • General Information about Teeth
- Healthy Eating for Healthy Teeth

Each book on the list includes:
- An overall recommendation (i.e., “Highly Recommended” or “Recommended”)
- General book information (i.e., author, year, publisher)
- A “key” that identifies specific information included in the book
- Additional comments

It is hoped that the book list will help guide utilization and purchasing decisions of oral health books for children within the following groups:
- Health and social service providers, including professional associations
- Public, school and university libraries
- Early childhood educators and child care providers
- Publishers and literacy programs • And many others!

The full collection of books will soon be available at the HS/HSL and will be available for check-out to those affiliated with the University of Maryland and through inter-library loan for all others.