



I-Smile

Improving the Lives and Smiles of Children



I-Smile is a statewide program administered by The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Human Services. I-Smile's mission is to ensure that all children in Iowa have access to dental care. Through various activities FAMILY, Inc.'s I-Smile team works to prevent cavities before they start by helping parents get children to the dentist and sharing information about the importance oral health for healthy kids.

By serving as the point-of-contact to families, public health agencies, dental and health care providers, and schools, FAMILY's I-Smile Coordinator, a licensed public health dental hygienist, works to improve the dental support system for families by creating a network of care coordination for children in Pottawattamie & Mills counties. In addition to developing local referral systems, the I-Smile coordinator facilitates preventive care at Head Start centers, daycares, preschools, and WIC clinics across the service area. FAMILY's I-Smile Coordinator organizes a local "Give Kids a Smile" event annually and oversees the I-Smile @ School program.



I-Smile @ School

FAMILY Inc.'s I-Smile @ School program provides no-cost dental screenings, dental sealants, fluoride varnish, and education for students in 24 schools across Pottawattamie & Mills counties. The dental program takes place during the school day and students miss very little class time. Providing on-site preventative services reduces access to care barriers such as lack of transportation, parents needing to take time off work, and lack of insurance. Additionally it reduces stigma because services are offered to all students, regardless of their risk or ability to otherwise receive preventative care. School-based programs are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Dental Association as a cost-effective and convenient way to prevent tooth decay.

"The service I-Smile provides to our families at preschool screening events is remarkable. Early detection and intervention of oral health issues is incredibly important to the overall health of the child. Having dental screenings at our preschool screenings allows families to be served without any hassle. And it's always great to see the big smiles on the children's faces when they walk away with their toothbrushes."

Tracy Matthews, Ph.D
Coordinator of Preschool Programming
Council Bluffs Community School District



Give Kids A Smile

Give Kids a Smile has become the largest children's oral health charitable program in the United States since its inception in 2003 by the American Dental Association. FAMILY, Inc. hosted its first annual event in 2008. Several area dentists and their staff graciously donate their time to provide services. The success of our local event is owed to the partnerships formed with dental offices and school districts. Through collaboration with Council Bluffs Community and Lewis Central School Districts, we are able to remove the barriers of cost, transportation, access to provides and time constraints for parents of underserved children in our community.

"The wonderful staff and volunteers (of Give Kids a Smile) make going to the dentist an enjoyable experience. They teach students about oral hygiene in a safe and familiar environment. This is truly a gift that the children remember for years to come."

Catherine Hubbard
School Administrative Manager
Bloomer Elementary

Outcomes:

Over the years, FAMILY, Inc.'s Give Kids a Smile event has provided over \$382,000 in free dental services to over 1,000 children.

"I speak on behalf of Rue Elementary & the Council Bluffs Community District. The I-Smile program is crucial for this district. We have a high percentage of low-income families and without these services our students may not otherwise receive these services. I have participated in preparing for the sealant program & preschool screening and have accompanied many students to Give Kids a Smile event. I will continue to participate in these services as long as they are available. The crew for the I-Smile program is amazing!!!!!"

-Pam Hunt
Health Associate
Rue Elementary

FAMILY, Inc. Vision & Mission

Vision

All children will learn, grow, and develop to realize their full potential.

Mission

Empower families to build a strong foundation and healthy future through education, advocacy, support, and community connection.



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FAMILY is the Iowa Department of Public Health's Maternal and Child Public Health (Title V) grantee for Pottawattamie & Mills Counties.