

# American Academy Pediatric Dentistry Core Values

## Adopted

2003

## Revised

2009

### American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry values (AAPD)

#### 1. Health and health care equity.

- A. AAPD values oral health as an inseparable part of the overall health and welfare of the infant, child, and adolescent.
- B. AAPD values universal access to comprehensive oral health care that meets each child's unique needs and promotes optimal oral health.
- C. AAPD values effectiveness and efficiency in providing oral health services to infants, children, and adolescents and supports efforts that improve access through effective and efficient delivery systems.
- D. AAPD values improvements in access to oral health care that reduce or eliminate financial, logistic, and cultural barriers to care.
- E. AAPD values oral health care for children that is safe, comprehensive, accessible, affordable, high quality, continuous, and respectful of individual children and their families.
- F. AAPD values volunteerism and charitable care that improves children's health but rejects these approaches as significant solutions to reducing disparities in oral health care for infants, children, and adolescents covered by public insurance programs.

#### 2. An effective dental workforce.

- A. AAPD values a workforce that can meet the needs of infants, children, and adolescents by being adequate in size, distribution, diversity, and competency.
- B. AAPD values the unique skills and knowledge that pediatric dentists bring to children's oral health care.
- C. AAPD values the role of other dental specialists and general dentists in caring for children.
- D. AAPD values programs that improve the capacity of general dentists, hygienists, and assistants to improve children's oral health by providing appropriate care and effectively referring to pediatric dentists when unable to meet the comprehensive needs of individual infants, children, and adolescents.
- E. The AAPD values the educators who mentor those who treat children, including pediatric dentists, general dentists, dental hygienists, and auxiliary personnel, by teaching the skills and promoting the professional behaviors that serve children's interests.

#### 3. Effective public programs.

- A. AAPD values government's role in assuring comprehensive dental care for vulnerable children and values the legal requirements of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT), which ensure access for covered children that is equivalent to access for noncovered children in the same geographic area.
- B. AAPD values public health programs proven to prevent or minimize disease in infants, children, and adolescents.

#### 4. Oral health promotion.

- A. AAPD values health promotion and disease prevention, including effective anticipatory guidance beginning with comprehensive dental care in a dental home starting at age 1.
- B. AAPD values the critical role of the dental home in promoting optimal oral health for all children.
- C. AAPD values health promotion and disease prevention as integral components of perinatal care.

#### 5. Child and adolescent welfare.

- A. AAPD values health, health equity, and the quality of life that results from health attainment, including oral health attainment.
- B. AAPD values society's recognition of oral disease as a significant health problem for infants, children, and adolescents that needs to be addressed in all pediatric health policies.
- C. AAPD values society's recognition of oral diseases that affect children's function, development, and quality of life as significant health problems.

#### 6. Science, education, research, and evidence-based care.

- A. AAPD values the scientific basis of its profession and the need to continue improving that base through research, experimentation, and the promotion of evidence-based care.
- B. AAPD values the critical role of clinical judgment to promote primary and comprehensive preventive and therapeutic oral health care for which evidence is incomplete or unavailable.

- C. AAPD values professional education programs and their faculties, community service, scientific contributions to pediatric dentistry, and the preparation of skilled practitioners.
  - D. AAPD values the dissemination of valid information about children's oral health to the professions and the public.
- 7. Children with special health care needs.**
- A. AAPD values the unique qualities of each person and the need to ensure maximal health attainment for all regardless of their developmental or other special health needs.
  - B. AAPD values dentists' unique roles and responsibilities in diagnosing oral conditions and in coordinating, managing, and directing the oral health care of infants, children, and adolescents.
- 8. Families and communities.**
- A. AAPD values the roles of families and communities in promoting infant, child, and adolescent health and welfare and attaining maximal oral health.
  - B. AAPD values the diversity of children, their families, and their communities and respects the contribution of culture to the attainment of oral health and use of dental services.
- 9. Membership.**
- AAPD values its members—their involvement with the Academy, their commitment to children and youth, their professional endeavors, and their support of policies that improve the health and welfare of children and youth.