



Getting Your Community Involved

So now that you understand the IHS ECC Initiative, the biggest question you have is “how do I get my staff, my community partners, and the community itself involved?” Below are some tips for making group presentations. You can also go to <http://www.doh.ihs.gov/ecc> to download additional materials and PowerPoint presentations.

1. Start a Fire

Use a famous quote, put on a skit, or use other methods as an attention getter.

Example: You could throw a bunch of dollar bills in the air and start out saying “We’re throwing money away every time a child in our community has to be treated for ECC. Did you know that ECC can be prevented?”



2. Make a Connection

Let the audience know why they should listen to you. What’s in it for them?

Example: ECC causes pain, infection, and can even affect a child’s self esteem. If we work together to prevent ECC, our children will be healthier and with the money saved on expensive dental treatment, more adults can receive the dental treatment that they need.



3. Teach through Examples

Tell stories, either real or made up, to make your main points. If you are a dentist, talk about how difficult it is for you to pull abscessed teeth on two year olds. If you work in Head Start, tell parents about children who had trouble learning because of the pain caused by infected teeth.

You can also use the PowerPoint presentation developed for this Initiative, and direct dental and community partners interested in helping out to the online fluoride varnish and caries stabilization courses (see ECC packet for more information on these courses).



4. Call to Action

Have participants sign a pledge sheet, write a personal goal, or circle a behavior change that they will make in their family life.

You can print the contracts on the back of this page and have group participants fill them out to take home with them to remind them of their commitment to prevent ECC.



Name _____

Date _____

**What will YOU do to prevent ECC
in your community or family during the next week?**



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