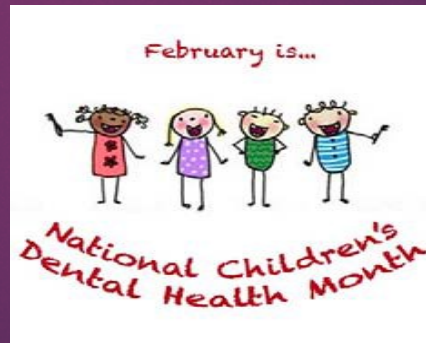


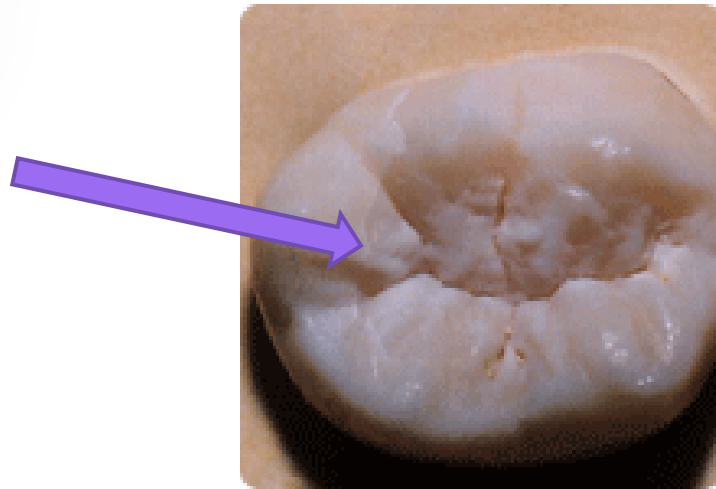
# Dental Sealants



Presentation 3

# Why are sealants needed?

- ▶ Cavities are mostly found on chewing surfaces. Almost three quarters of all cavities in children's teeth are on chewing surfaces!
- ▶ Chewing surfaces are at risk because they have deep pits and fissures where germs and food can hide (see the arrow below).



Before



After

# How are sealants placed?

- ▶ Placing dental sealants is really quick and easy!
- ▶ Your dentist, dental hygienist, therapist, or dental assistant will prepare the tooth by cleaning the chewing surface.
- ▶ Then he/she will place the sealant material – which can be clear, white, or even pink – on the tooth.
- ▶ Sometimes, he/she will shine a light on the tooth to harden the sealant material.

# Who needs to get a sealant?

- ▶ Adults or children who may be at high risk for tooth decay.
- ▶ If you or your child has had a previous cavity, a sealant may be needed.
- ▶ Your dentist, dental hygienist, therapist, or dental assistant will let you know if a dental sealant is recommended for your child.

# When does my child need to get a dental sealant?

- ▶ Dental sealants can be applied at any time, but they're best applied soon after a tooth erupts.
- ▶ A special kind of dental sealant can even be placed on primary (baby) teeth to help prevent cavities.
- ▶ Children as young as one year old have received dental sealants!



# How do I get more information about sealants?

- ▶ Talk to your dental health care professional today!