Dental Sealants

February is...
National Children's Dental Health Month

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).
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!