



What is the ECDN-SW?

The Early Childhood Dental Network-SW (ECDN-SW) is an 18-county, multi-disciplinary collaborative project, and an expansion of the 16 Early Childhood Initiative (ECI) communities in southwest Minnesota. It is designed to increase awareness and education to all children and their caregivers about the importance of oral health, and to promote accessing dental care, specifically to the 0-5 population on Minnesota Health Care Programs or the uninsured.

There's Strength in Numbers

The ECDN-SW's greatest strength lies in the partnerships it develops. Through these collaborations, the ECDN-SW will be able to:

- Bridge gaps in services;
- Work on the strengths of the region and each partner agency;
- Determine high impact strategies to build further capacity within the region;
- Make a difference in the oral health of our communities.



Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards
for U.S. Community Foundations

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

LOCAL PARTNER NAME

Jodi Maertens
Program Officer
15 3rd Avenue NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
(800) 594-9480
jodim@swifoundation.org

Michelle Randt
Consultant
Early Childhood Dental Network-Southwest
Southwest Initiative Foundation
320-583-4536
micheller70@live.com



**SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

15 3rd Avenue NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350
800-594-9480 or 320-587-4848
info@swifoundation.org
www.swifoundation.org



Early Childhood Dental Network - Southwest

ECDN-SW



MINNESOTA EARLY CHILDHOOD



INITIATIVE

a campaign for our youngest children

What's the issue?

- Childhood tooth decay is the most chronic, yet preventable, infectious disease in children.
- Dental problems are five times more prevalent than asthma and seven times more than hay fever.
- 50 percent of tooth decay in low income children goes untreated.

What's the problem?

They're just "baby teeth."

- Baby teeth lay a foundation for permanent teeth. If not taken care of, problems in baby teeth can lead to a lifetime of health problems.
- Acute pain and tooth loss can lead to dysfunctional speech patterns, space loss, crowding and diminished facial appearance.
- Living with untreated pain due to tooth decay can be associated with poor school performance and disruptive behavior, affecting both the child's ability to learn and others.

How can we prevent this?

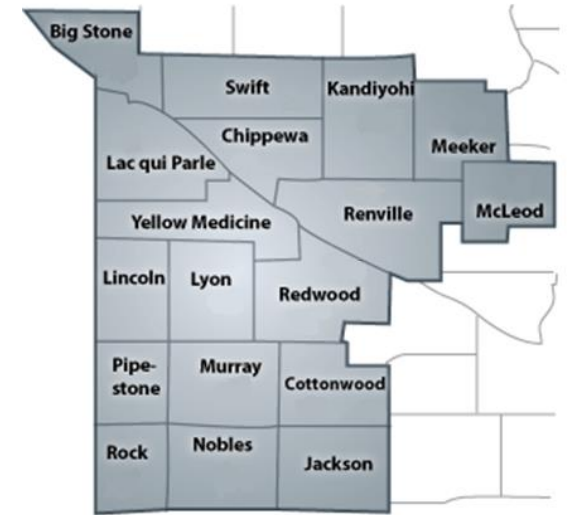
- Daily brushing and flossing
- Proper nutrition
- Regular check-ups
- Fluoride

When children are in pain, they cannot reach their full potential.

The ECDN is making a difference to the children in Southwest Minnesota by:

- Developing and implementing a variety of fun, educational oral health trainings and materials.
- Supporting partners to include oral health materials in Early Childhood Screening backpacks
- Bringing partners together to schedule regular mobile dental unit visits in Southwest Minnesota.
- Distributing educational and informational display boards to local and regional partners to include at county fairs, resource fairs, clinics, and many other public locations.
- Providing partners access to free toothbrushes to distribute to children ages 2-4 across the region.

The ECDN-SW serves Southwest Minnesota:



ECDN-SW's Primary Goals

- Improve access to timely, appropriate and affordable dental care in rural southwestern Minnesota, with a focus on children ages birth-five years.
- Develop community based models that increase awareness and education for parents, children, and the community about the importance of good oral health for children.