



Helping Iowans like Kaeden

Ten-year-old Kaeden is a fourth grader at Hiawatha Elementary School. Thanks to Linn County's Hawkeye Area Community Action Program "I-Smile," which is supported by the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation, Kaeden recently spent a few minutes of his school day getting dental sealants applied to his teeth by a dental professional.

Kaeden's mom, Kristin, said she wouldn't have known about the availability of the procedure to prevent cavities if it hadn't been for the school-based program. When the flyer came home from school and she learned more about sealants, she was thrilled to take advantage of the opportunity.

"Kaeden visits the dentist regularly, and oral health is very important to us," Kristin said. "The fact that he can have these sealants put on at school makes a big difference."

Kristin said the convenience and affordability of the program makes it easier for many more kids like Kaeden to get sealants. "It provides care for families who don't have a lot of money, and it's so much more convenient than having to take off work and find time for an extra appointment."

Thanks to this important public-private partnership in Hiawatha and schools across the state, Iowa's children are getting the preventive care that will be so critical to their future health. And Kaeden's smile will be bright for years to come!