



The Impact of a Smile

These before and after photos show the impact of a smile which leads to improved classroom attendance, social confidence, employability, and medical savings.



What Did Happen

What Should Have Happened

Case #1



- 4-year old
- Rural Southwest Iowa

Patient unable to receive preventative care

Cavities led to abscess and facial swelling

Patient visited ER twice with overnight hospitalization

Tooth extracted at dental office

Patient visited dental home

Patient received preventative care

Cavities prevented or treated appropriately

ER visits avoided

Total Medicaid Costs

~ \$10,000

\$166

Case #2



- 3-year old
- Council Bluffs

Physician referred patient to dentist for severe cavities

General anesthesia for multiple extractions and crowns

Second general anesthesia visit to extract permanent molars at age 8

Age 1 dental visit where dentist provided preventative guidance to parents

Ongoing preventative appointments

Patient saves permanent teeth; avoided anesthesia and extensive surgery

Total Medicaid Costs

~ \$7,000

\$70/year