

Resolution from the Board of Health of the  
Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit to the  
Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services

**Title:           Dental Care Services within the Best Start Program**

Whereas Early Childhood Tooth Decay is the most prevalent chronic disease to affect children; and

Whereas oral health is an important component of general health and impacts directly on a child's speech development, ability to thrive and readiness to learn; and

Whereas dental care is excluded from the Ontario universal health care system; and

Whereas a number of children in Ontario who require dental treatment are not eligible for current dental financial assistance programs and come from families who are unable to pay for dental treatment out of pocket; and

Whereas the current Best Start strategy involves using new federal funds to work with community partners to ensure that "many more children and parents have access to services and supports, regardless of individual economic or social circumstances" and that "early and ongoing screening of Ontario's children to identify potential issues, needs and risks is strengthened";

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Ministry of Children and Youth Services be requested to include dental care services within the Best Start program to ensure that all children in Ontario, from all economic and social backgrounds, have access to a comprehensive set of services and supports early in life.

December 15, 2005