



**MEDIA ADVISORY
FEBRUARY 17, 2016
10:30 AM**

FAMILIES COME TOGETHER TO LEARN ABOUT ORAL HEALTH
*In honor of National Children's Dental Health Month Baltimore County Public
Library and the Maryland Dental Action Coalition will host Oral Health Story
Time*

BALTIMORE— On **Wednesday, February 17** at **10:30 AM** families will gather at Baltimore County Public Library's (BCPL) **Towson Branch** for an Oral Health Story Time event where library staff will read special storybooks about the importance of oral health that will engage the children. Librarians will also coordinate other oral health activities for the children such as songs, learning from visual hand-outs and oral health demonstrations. A dental hygienist from the Maryland Dental Action Coalition (MDAC) will show the children how to brush and floss their teeth and educate the children and parents about the skills needed to practice proper oral hygiene at home. All children will receive an oral health kit consisting of a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and an educational brochure.

According to the National Association of Education (NAE), American students miss more than 51 million hours of school every year because of oral health problems. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that oral disease is the most common chronic disease among U.S. children; it is also one of the most preventable.

In honor of **National Children's Dental Health Month** and to raise awareness of the importance of proper oral health, BCPL, in partnership with MDAC, will host a series of similar Oral Health Story Time events at library branches throughout the county. Books used to educate the children will be chosen from a list of children's oral health books assembled by MDAC to increase access to oral health information for children and families, and to provide guidance to those who purchase books. The list was developed by an inter-professional group of reviewers for use by pediatric dentists and dental hygienists, pediatricians, nurses, librarians, early childhood education teachers and parents. The list is available at <http://guides.hshsl.umaryland.edu/dentistry/DentalBooksForChildren>

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