School Partnership Packet

Bringing dental education to children, one story at a time.

Introduction

The Storybook Smiles Project is a **student-led community initiative** that creates f**ree, illustrated storybooks** to help children **better understand dental care**.

The project takes common questions about teeth and dental visits and turns them into engaging, age-appropriate stories. Through characters, illustrations, and relatable situations, children can explore dental concepts in a way that feels familiar and enjoyable.

We hope to make these resources freely available to elementary schools, teachers, families, and community organizations.

Why Dental Education Matters

Children encounter many new experiences as they grow, including visits to the dentist. For some children, unfamiliar instruments, procedures, and unfamiliar words can make dental visits confusing or intimidating.

Introducing these concepts through stories can give children an opportunity to learn what to expect, ask questions, and become more familiar with dental care.

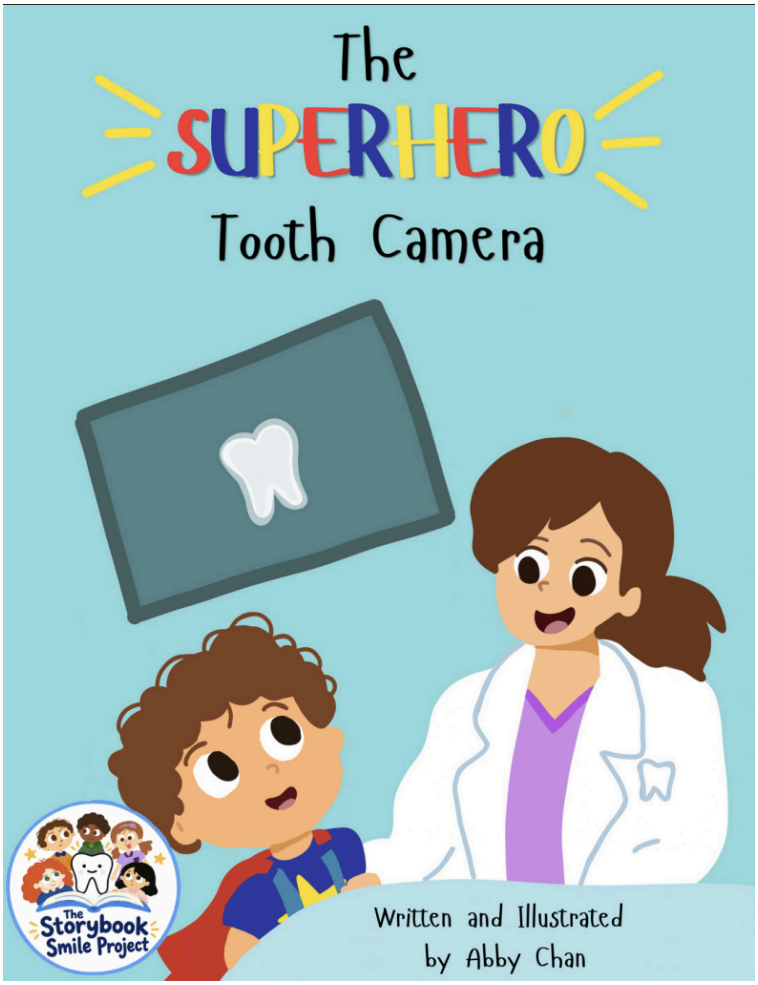
Research has found that storybooks and picture books may help reduce children's anxiety surrounding dental and medical experiences. The Storybook Smiles Project aims to make these educational resources accessible beyond the dental office and into the communities where children learn.

Our First Storybook

Our first storybook introduces children to dental X-rays through the experiences of a young character named Leo.

Leo visits the dentist, learns why dental X-rays are used, and discovers how a panoramic X-ray machine takes a picture of his teeth. Through a playful story and illustrations, the book explains an unfamiliar part of a dental visit in a way that is easier for young readers to follow.

This book is the starting point for a larger collection of free educational storybooks.



Link:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gEWvx_3Z7ulIm74eGnxDllqyGOWyYhnx/view?usp=sharing

How Schools Can Use the Resources

The Storybook Smiles Project hopes to provide schools with free resources that can be incorporated into existing educational activities.

Potential uses include:

- Classroom Read-Alouds
    - Teachers can read storybooks aloud to introduce dental concepts and encourage students to ask questions.
- Health and Wellness Lessons
    - Books can supplement lessons about personal health, hygiene, and taking care of the body.
- School Libraries
    - Digital or printed copies can be made available for students to explore independently or with their families.
- Family Resources
    - Schools can share free digital copies with parents and caregivers who may want to discuss dental care with their children at home.
- Student Discussion Activities
    - Teachers can use the stories as a starting point for age-appropriate discussions about dental visits, oral health, and questions children may have.

Participation and use of the materials are entirely optional.

What We Are Asking

We are looking to connect with schools and educators who may be interested in helping us introduce these free resources to children.

A school partnership could involve:

1. Reviewing a storybook to determine whether it is appropriate for the school's students.
2. Sharing a free digital copy with teachers or families.

3. Using the book in a classroom read-aloud or health lesson.
4. Providing feedback about the book's readability, usefulness, and age-appropriateness.
5. Suggesting additional dental topics that students may be interested in learning about.

Schools are not expected to make a financial contribution or commit to ongoing participation.

What Schools Receive

Participating schools may receive:

- Free digital storybooks.
- Printable versions of available resources.
- Suggested discussion questions or classroom activities as they are developed.
- Updates when new storybooks become available.

All resources will be provided free of charge.

Thank You

Thank you for considering sharing the Storybook Smiles Project with your school community.

We believe that children deserve opportunities to learn about their health in ways that are understandable, engaging, and accessible. We would appreciate the opportunity to share our first storybook and explore whether these resources could be useful to your students.

Contact

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The Storybook Smiles Project is a student-led educational initiative. Its materials are educational resources and are not intended to replace professional dental advice, diagnosis, or treatment.