Dental Professional Partnership Packet

Helping children understand dental care, one story at a time.

Introduction

The Storybook Smiles Project is a **student-led community initiative** that creates **free, illustrated storybooks** to help children better understand and feel more comfortable with dental care.

Many children have questions about their teeth and dental visits but may not know how to express them or understand the explanations they receive. Our project aims to make these topics more approachable by turning common dental questions and experiences into **engaging, age-appropriate stories.**

We are reaching out to dental professionals because their **knowledge** and **experience** are essential to ensuring that the educational information in our books is accurate, responsible, and appropriate for children.

Why We Are Reaching Out

We are looking to connect with dental professionals who may be interested in supporting the project through one or more of the following opportunities.

1. Dental Content Review

Our primary goal is to have dental professionals review storybooks before they are publicly shared.

A reviewer may be asked to:

- Check dental explanations for scientific accuracy
- Identify any misleading or confusing information
- Suggest changes to make explanations clearer for children
- Help ensure that the content is appropriate for its intended age group

Reviewers are not expected to rewrite the stories or take responsibility for creating the illustrations. We are simply hoping to ensure the accuracy of the educational content.

2. Educational Feedback

We would also welcome input from dental professionals who regularly work with children, including dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants.

For example:

- What questions do children commonly ask during dental visits?
- Which procedures or dental concepts tend to confuse children?
- What do you wish more children understood before visiting the dentist?
- Are there any dental topics that you think would benefit from being explained to children through an illustrated storybook?

These suggestions can help guide future books and ensure that the project addresses real questions children have.

3. Sharing Free Resources

As the project grows, we hope to make our completed storybooks available for free to dental offices.

Interested dental offices may choose to:

- Share digital copies with families.
- Print copies for waiting rooms or educational use.
- Recommend books to parents preparing children for dental visits.

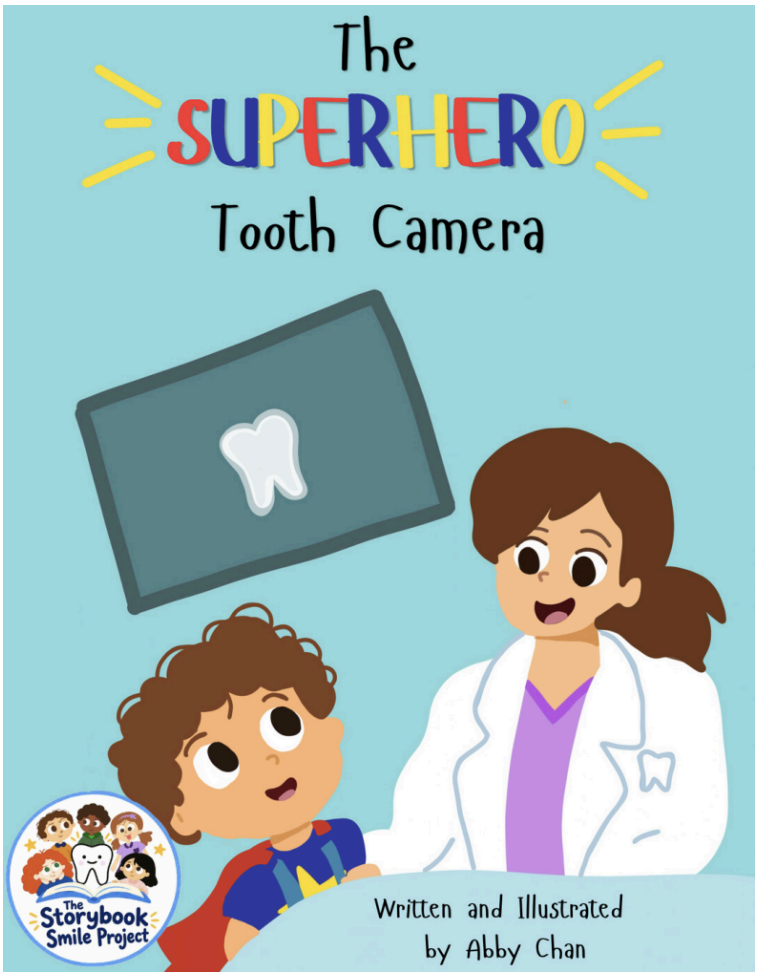
Participation in sharing resources is completely optional.

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

Why Storybooks?

Past research has explored the potential of storybooks to help children prepare for dental and medical experiences.

A 2022 randomized controlled clinical trial involving 88 children ages 6-8 found that children who received a specially designed dental storybook experienced lower dental anxiety and more cooperative behavior during treatment than children in the control group.

Additional research, including a 2025 randomized controlled trial and a 2025 systematic review of picture books for medical procedures, provides further support for exploring story-based educational resources.

The Storybook Smiles Project hopes to build on this research by creating accessible resources that combine engaging storytelling with accurate dental information.

What We Are Asking

At this stage, we are especially interested in connecting with dental professionals who would be willing to:

1. Review our first storybook, *The Superhero Tooth Camera*.
2. Share feedback on its dental accuracy and age-appropriateness.
3. Suggest additional topics that could become future storybooks.
4. Consider staying connected as the project develops.

There is no financial commitment required to participate, and all resources will be provided free of charge.

Thank You

Thank you for considering supporting the Storybook Smiles Project. Your expertise could help make dental education more understandable and approachable for children.

We would love the opportunity to share our first storybook and hear your feedback.

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.