

PREPARE NOW OR PAY LATER

Objective: To learn about long-term benefits of preventive dental care.

You Will Need:

- Printout: ***Prepare Now or Pay Later***

Procedure:

- 1) Discuss with students the benefits of regular dental visits. [Opportunity to examine oral health, identify any issues, evaluate development and assess for dental disease]
- 2) Encourage students to share their views on dental care and their own personal experiences at the dental office.
- 3) Divide students into groups of 2-3.
- 4) Distribute the ***Prepare Now or Pay Later*** printout to group.
- 5) Instruct the students to answer the questions within their groups and write down the answers on the printout.
- 6) Have the students share their answers with the class.
- 7) Reinforce the benefits of regular dental hygiene.
- 8) Discuss the costs associated with dental care and the resources available to people.

Module Extension

- ❖ Have students choose a book from the ***Dental Days Reading List*** and give a book report to the class about what they learned.

- ▶ **Curriculum Objectives (Grade 5):** 1.2 Analyze the impact of using strategies to promote healthy growth and development.

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Filling – one surface	\$70.00
Filling–two surfaces	\$103.00
Crown	\$680.00
Extraction	\$56.00
Mouth Guard	\$52.00
Sealant	\$27.00
Dentures	\$1,200.00
Cleaning (Polishing)	\$50.00
Fluoride Treatment	\$23.00
X-rays	\$97.00
Examination (Check-up)	\$80.00

1) Alyssa goes to the dentist, Dr. Tooth, for regular check-ups. She also takes good care of her teeth by brushing twice and flossing once every day. At her last check-up, she had her teeth cleaned (prophylaxis), x-rayed, and had a fluoride treatment.

What was Alyssa’s total bill for her last check-up?

2) Robbie brushes twice per day but flosses only once per week. The dentist discovered new decay between Robbie’s back molars. His check-up included a cleaning (prophylaxis), x-rays, and two fillings: one covered one surface and the other filling covered two surfaces.

What was Robbie’s total bill for his last check-up?

3) Danielle wants to keep her teeth and not lose them to decay. Last week she started to brush and floss every day. Because of years of not brushing and flossing, her check-up showed that two of her back teeth needed crowns and one needs a two-surface filling. She also needs x-rays to make certain there is no other decay between her teeth.

What will Danielle’s total dental bill be?

Critical Thinking: Prevention vs. treatment:

Which is more expensive (in the long-term): 1) to practice dental hygiene habits regularly at home and have preventative treatment regularly or 2) to practice dental hygiene habits rarely and have teeth repaired after they have begun to decay and are showing signs of disease? Why?