



# PROCLAMATION

*Office of the Mayor*



## Children's Dental Health Month February 2024

**WHEREAS:** The American Dental Association (ADA) has been recognizing every February as National Children's Dental Health Month since 1981. Beginning in 1949, this annual observance was originally celebrated as National Children's Dental Health Day on February 8<sup>th</sup>. In 1955, the ADA decided to extend it to one week and then eventually to a month in 1981; and

**WHEREAS:** The ADA sponsors this national campaign to raise awareness about the importance of oral health in our youth. The Middletown Township Health Department strongly promotes National Children's Dental Health Month so young residents can learn how to practice proper oral hygiene; and

**WHEREAS:** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cavities are one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood in the United States. Children who have poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than children who don't. Individuals between the ages of 5 to 19 years old who come from low-income families are also twice as likely to have cavities; and

**WHEREAS:** Fortunately, cavities can be mostly preventable with routine screenings and good oral health habits. Now,

**THEREFORE:** I, Mayor Tony Perry and the Middletown Township Committee, do hereby proclaim February 2024, and every February going forward, as **Children's Dental Health Month** in the Township of Middletown. We encourage families to help recognize this month by taking their kids to the dentist, making sure they brush and floss their teeth, and visiting [www.middletownnj.org/dental](http://www.middletownnj.org/dental) to access ADA's fun and educational resources.

*Given, under my hand and the Great Seal of the Township of Middletown,  
this fifth day of February in the year two thousand twenty-four*

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Mayor Tony Perry