



Helping Iowa Smile – Jamir, Waterloo

When Jamir visited the dentist for the first time, he hadn't even had his first birthday party.

Thanks to the Dentist By 1™ community outreach campaign conducted by Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation and Waterloo-area partners, Corrion knew just how important that first visit to the dentist was. "We know it's important to get him in early and often," she says. "I definitely listened to what they told me. When they said to get him in by one, I got him in by one!"

Statements like that are music to Dr. Jena Hopkins' ears. Dr. Hopkins had the pleasure of seeing Jamir on his first visit to People's Clinic in Waterloo, and she says working with families is one of the best parts of her job.

Dr. Hopkins says the first visit to the dentist isn't as much about identifying problems as it is a chance to start a conversation. "Parents want to help their kids have healthy teeth," she says. "It's nice to be able to start our relationship off on the right foot with an experience that's about prevention and education. Not only is it good to get the child used to being in the dentist's office, it sets the stage for a lifetime of visits."

Corrion knows her work doesn't stop when she leaves Dr. Hopkins' office. "We brush our teeth twice a day together. I let him get started, then I take his toothbrush and really brush for him," she says. "I also make sure he drinks lots of water so the fluoride can help his teeth, and he doesn't drink much juice at all."

With people like Corrion and Dr. Hopkins in his corner, Jamir is sure to have a bright smile and healthy mouth from the start!