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Today Kathy is 3 (1960)

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Recommended Citation

American Dental Association, "Today Kathy is 3 (1960)" (1960). *Patient Dental Health Education Brochures*. 301.

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Today
is Kathy





“A toothbrush!”

That was an odd birthday present for a 3-year-old,” said Mrs. Brown.

Mrs. Smith smiled. “Not really. Kathy has all of her first teeth now, so it’s time for her to begin brushing them. I’ll have to help for a while, but she’ll soon learn. When I took her to Dr.

Jones yesterday, he showed her the proper way to brush.”

“That poor child! You mean she had a toothache at her age?”

“Oh, no. Dr. Jones cleaned, x-rayed and checked her teeth, but he didn’t find even one cavity. He said I’d obviously taken to heart all his lectures on the importance of giving my children diets low in sweets. Kathy will be going back to him for check-ups every six months now.”

“Isn’t that kind of silly?” asked Mrs. Brown. “She’s going to lose her baby teeth anyhow. Why all that fuss?”

“As Dr. Jones told me,” Mrs. Smith explained, “Kathy will keep

some of those 'baby' teeth until she's 11 or 12. At least she will if they are properly taken care of.

"We all need our primary teeth—and later our permanent ones—for chewing, for speaking and for appearance. Besides, the first teeth hold the space for the permanent teeth."

Mrs. Brown looked thoughtful. "My grandson will be 3 next week," she said. "I wonder if Ellen has taken him to the dentist."



AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

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