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## Toothprints®

### Another way to keep your children safe

It's almost no surprise to turn on the television these days and see an Amber Alert for missing children and juveniles. It's also no surprise to constantly see pictures of missing children on post cards in the mail or bulletin boards at local mega-marts.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children estimates there were 797,500 missing children in 1999 with 58,200 abducted by non-family members, 203,900 by family members and 115 "stereotypical kidnappings," the most serious of all cases.

A not-so-new method of identification is gaining more popularity with law enforcement officials in regards to missing children. Toothprints®, created in 1999 by Massachusetts pediatric dentist David Tesini, DMD, MS, is a Thermoplastic biteplate that records a child's unique tooth characteristics.

These easy-to-make and inexpensive dental impressions can be stored at home in a sealed plastic bag. Toothprints® not only store tooth impressions but DNA from saliva as well, a very helpful tool for police dogs to search for missing children by scent.

The Safe Kids Identification

Program (SKIP) uses Toothprints® in their digital identifying of children, along with vital statistics and profile photographs, which can all be sent out to police during the critical first three hours after the report of a missing child.

Plastic bite plates can be purchased online. A child's dentist or orthodontist can also make dental impressions during a regular visit, usually a no extra charge.

Dental impressions made at home are simply and quick. Simply warm the bite plate in some hot water as instructed by directions provided on or in the package. Once the plastic is soft and impressionable, have the child open his or her mouth as wide as possible and then bite firmly onto the plastic plate. Make sure the plate goes back far enough in the mouth to capture all the teeth.

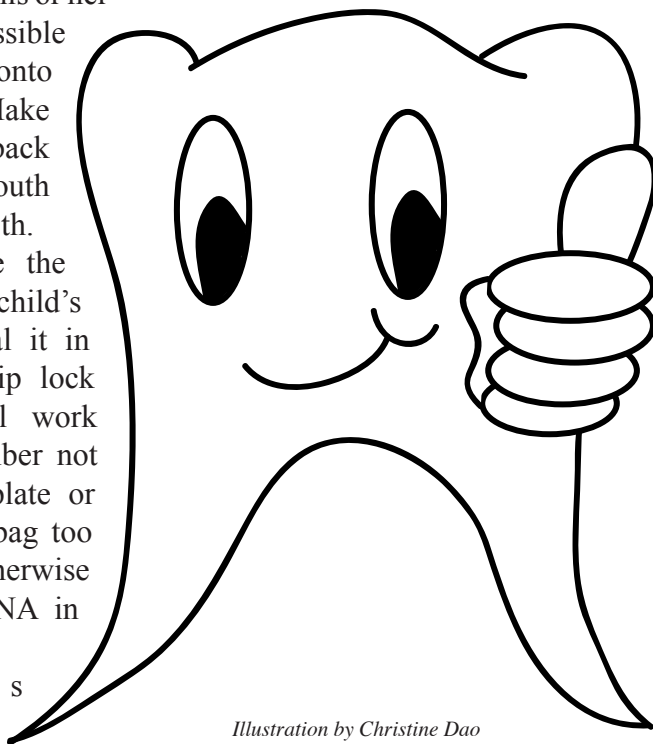
Once you take the bite plate out of the child's mouth, quickly seal it in a plastic bag (a zip lock sandwich bag will work perfectly). Remember not to wash the bite plate or keep it out of the bag too long, which can otherwise contaminate the DNA in the saliva.

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parents to take periodical impressions to keep up with a child's changing mouth.

Family Safety First says initial impressions can be made at age three, when all primary teeth have erupted. An updated impression should be made around age seven or eight, after the upper and lower incisors and the first permanent molars have erupted. Another update should be made around age 12 or 13, after all permanent teeth, excluding 3<sup>rd</sup> molars, have erupted.

More information on David Tesini and Toothprints® can get found at [www.toothprints.net](http://www.toothprints.net). ■



*Illustration by Christine Dao*

Also, apply baking soda to floss. Baking soda is a mild abrasive that can clean teeth plaque off teeth without harming teeth's protective enamel. Baking soda can also be used as a substitute for regular toothpaste, which contains fluoride, which has a debilitating effect on the immune system. Simply brushing with baking soda and a drop or two of Maleluca oil will provide an excellent natural, antibacterial tooth cleaner and breath freshener. 🍷

The most comprehensive tooth chart to date!

The charts are \$10 plus S/H. You may order the chart by calling the King Institute, Inc. at 800-640-7998. The charts will be available to purchase on our website within two weeks.

## Energy Correlations with Teeth (upper)

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