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## **NEWS RELEASE: CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH GUIDE LAYS GROUNDWORK FOR A LIFETIME OF HEALTHY MOUTHS**

**Westchester, NY** – September 2007 – A new educational guide for use in the classroom will help teachers explain the often-mysterious world of dentistry to their students. As legislators debate the ways to expand access to dental care for children, the classroom can serve as an immediate pathway to happy, healthy smiles for children who may never have visited a dental educator before.

Teachers can use *Smile Wide, Look Inside: A Teacher's Guide* to illustrate how dental health can be both fun and educational. The authors, Judith Dember-Paige, R.D.H. and Carol J. Manocchi-Verino, came together to write an interactive manual to help teachers explain dental care by discussing topics such as fluoride, brushing techniques and the importance of regular dental visits. Discussion of dental professionals and the roles they play in total oral health helps to demystify the people “behind the mask.”

*Smile Wide, Look Inside: A Teacher's Guide* helps communicate with children using friendly terms like “thirsty straw”, “tickle-me toothbrush” and the ever popular “treasure box.” The teaching exercises will give children positive images of dental offices while explaining the range of emotions they may feel while in a dental chair. The authors address fear and anxiety stemming from parental perceptions or even their own tooth pain. Using these methods, educators will be able to allay any fears or misconceptions held by children who most need dental care.

After implementing the guide, teachers will find their students to be excited about their own dental care. This attitude will stay with the children, enabling a lifetime of healthy mouths.

Judith Dember-Paige, R.D.H., founded ABCDEPRESS.COM to provide children with a comforting and informative guide to the dental profession. Carol J. Manocchi-Verino is an educator with the Lakeland School District Westchester NY. Their goal is to establish the topic of children's dental health as a vital part of the national educational curriculum.

**For Further Information:** Judith Dember-Paige, R.D.H. (914) 243-0463 or visit the *Smile Wide, Look Inside: A Teacher's Guide* website, <http://www.abcdepress.com/>

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