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Dentist donates a smile

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Dr. Harvey Levy checks David Johnson's teeth, while Dr. Naj Patel looks on. As part of the Give Kids A Smile program, Dr. Levy provided free dental care for 50 low-income children on Friday.

Ed Waters, Jr.

FREDERICK ----Many children -- and adults ----don't like going to the dentist, even though it is a part of staying healthy.

On Friday, however, one dental practice was full of children who were awaiting dental care.

Each year, Dr. Harvey Levy opens his practice on Thomas Johnson Drive to children from low-income families for the Give Kids A Smile program.

It is part of the American Dental Association's Children's Dental Health Month. Sullivan-Schein and Colgate supply products, and a dentist in each county offers the professional service.

"I got the children lined up from the Frederick County Health Department," Levy said Friday as he checked one child's teeth.

"Some had been waiting as long as seven months for this."

Levy had 50 children scheduled Friday, beginning at 8 a.m., for check ups, cleaning and X-rays.

"It helps them develop good dental habits and puts them into the system," he said.

Parents filled out questionnaires about the children's medical information. "We have to see if they are taking medicine or have any other problems," Levy said.

The local dentist has been honored in the past for his volunteer services to help low-income or physically challenged patients.

While he is gentle in providing dental care, Levy is a martial arts master who teaches stick fighting and other techniques.

After the examination, cleaning and X-rays, each child received a goodie bag with a tooth brush, toothpaste and dental care information.