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*Lisa Taylor*

## Clinic Staff Celebrates Accreditation Success

Tribal administration thanks Siletz Clinic staff for their efforts in obtaining a full three-year accreditation from AAAHC (Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care). Last August, two surveyors spent two days inspecting the clinic, which was the final piece of a two-year project. The Health Department has had a goal of accreditation since it opened in 1991. At the February luncheon, Health Director Judy Muschamp thanked each staff member by presenting a memorial salmon pin from the George G. Harris Wildlife Collection. The Crazy Horse Grill in Lincoln City catered the event.

## Lisa Taylor, RNP, Joins Clinic Team

Lisa Taylor is one of our newer employees. She was a registered nurse for 14 years and spent the last two working in the pediatric intensive care unit at OHSU. Taylor graduated in June 1999 from OHSU as a nurse practitioner. She then came to Siletz and has been working at the Siletz Community Health Clinic.

Taylor originally is from South Dakota and moved to Oregon in 1984 after graduating from nursing school. She has three girls – Briana, 6, and twins Abigail and Alyssa, 5 – and a pet Pekingese named Nestle.

When not at work, Taylor enjoys running, reading, and making sandcastles on the beach with her girls. She also says she loves her computer. We're really glad to have her working at the Siletz Clinic.

## Tooth Talk

*by Linda Kreutzer, RDH*

### Sealants



#### What are dental sealants?

Dental sealants are thin plastic coatings that are applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth. Most tooth decay in children and teen-agers occurs in these back teeth (molars). Before decay can begin, sealants are placed to fill in the small grooves in the molars.

#### Which teeth are suitable for sealants?

The teeth most likely to benefit from sealants are the permanent molars. First molars come into the mouth when a child is about 6 years old. Second molars appear at about age 12. Children between the ages of 5 and 14 benefit most from sealants. After an examination, a dentist will determine which teeth can be sealed.

#### Does it hurt?

Absolutely not! Receiving a sealant is quick and easy. Application requires no shots or drills. A dentist or hygienist first cleans the tooth with a special liquid. Then the sealant is “painted” on the tooth. The material goes on as a liquid (to flow into the cracks of the tooth) then hardens. A finished sealant is almost invisible and cannot be felt by the tongue.

#### How long will it last?

One sealant application can last for as long as five to 10 years. Your dentist should check the sealants once a year to make sure they are in place. Sealants have been used for more than 20 years. They have proven to be **very** effective in preventing decay. Ask your dentist if your children should get sealants. With regular brushing, flossing, and sealants, a child may never have a cavity or need a filling.

The Siletz Community Health Clinic is holding a sealant clinic on April 10-13. Children at Siletz School, with a signed permission form, can come to the clinic and have sealants placed **for free!** What a wonderful community service. Our staff supports the idea of preventing decay before it happens.

## Get Vaccinated for Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A vaccine is available at the clinic. It's a good idea to vaccinate everyone in your family over 2 years of age. Check your kids' records - make sure they are protected.

