



**Contact:**

Peter Taylor  
Vermont State Dental Society  
802-864-0115  
[ptaylorvt@aol.com](mailto:ptaylorvt@aol.com)  
<http://www.vsds.org>

Kevin Ellis  
Kimbell Sherman Ellis, LLP  
802-229-4900 x107  
802-371-8112 (cell)  
[kevin@ksefocus.com](mailto:kevin@ksefocus.com)  
<http://www.ksefocus.com>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
**September 24, 2009**

**New Head Start Dental Initiative Announced Today**  
*Charlotte Dentist to strengthen program*

Fairlee, Vt. --- Something – and someone - special is bringing together Vermont dentists and children in the state’s Head Start program.

Dr. George “Spin” Richardson, along with leaders from the Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont Head Start Program, is helping to spearhead an effort to ensure that every Vermont child enrolled in the Head Start program has a “dental home” – meaning a place to go for high-quality, consistent dental care. A dental home is the foundation for good overall health care for Vermont children.

The “AAPD Dental Home Head Start Initiative,” which launches September 24 at an all-day meeting at the Lake Morey Inn, is part of national \$5 million grant program. The program is a partnership between Vermont Head Start and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

“I just like doing this,” said Richardson, 64, a retired dentist from Charlotte. “We want to make sure every child has a dental home.”

After 35 years of practice, Richardson last week received the Vermont State Dental Society (VSDS) Distinguished Service award in recognition of his service to the state's children.

Richardson is a long time member of the (VSDS), whose dentists serve more low-income patients on Medicaid than any state in the country, according to Richardson. The VSDS has long been a leader in low-income dental care and is always looking for ways to expand that care, according to Peter Taylor, VSDS executive director.

Richardson and his colleagues work with the Tooth Tutor Program of Vermont. Tooth tutors are dental hygienists who make sure that appointments are scheduled, that parents are involved and that the whole process is streamlined.

"We want to make sure that if a child falls down and breaks a tooth, he has a dental office to go to," Richardson said. "We are really trying to connect all the dots, children and their families with local dentists that can provide care that is stable and accessible."

Richardson said he is actively recruiting Vermont dentists to participate in the program.

"We can operate in classrooms and work with parents and children on the need for dental care," Richardson said.

"Providing medical and dental homes is one of the many important things we do," said Jill Spiro, project coordinator of the Vermont State Head Start Collaboration Offices.

For additional information also contact:

Dr. George Richardson  
[spindoc207@aol.com](mailto:spindoc207@aol.com)  
802-864-6881

Jill Spiro  
[spimo@sover.net](mailto:spimo@sover.net)  
802-257-8015

###

**About the Vermont State Dental Society**

The Vermont State Dental Society is a voluntary membership organization of dental professionals who, together with the American Dental Association, work to improve the oral health of the citizens of Vermont and serve the profession of dentistry.

The Vermont State Dental Society is the leading resource for improving the oral health of every Vermonter. Learn more at <http://www.vsds.org>