



WHITE FILLINGS

& SILVER CAPS

FOR KIDS

**A PARENT'S GUIDE TO RESTORING BABY
TEETH AND YOUNG SMILES**



Why Treat Baby Teeth?

Baby teeth may be temporary, but they are important.

They help children:

- Chew comfortably
- Speak clearly
- Hold space for adult teeth
- Smile with confidence
- Avoid pain, infection, and swelling

Treating cavities early can help protect your child's comfort and oral health.

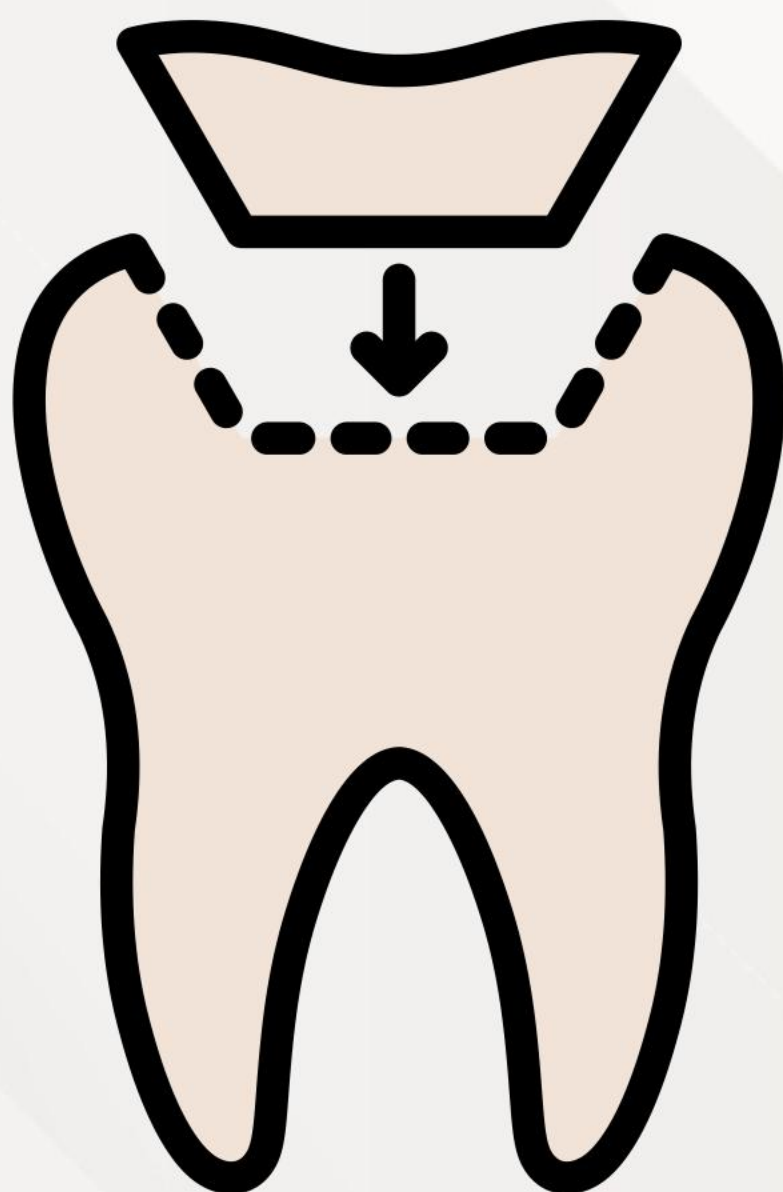


What Are White Fillings?

White fillings are tooth-colored restorations used to repair smaller cavities or damaged areas.

The dentist removes the weakened part of the tooth, cleans the area, and places a tooth-colored material to restore shape and function.

They are often used when there is enough healthy tooth structure left to support the filling.



What Are Silver Caps?

Silver caps are also called stainless steel crowns.

They cover and protect the whole visible part of a baby molar.

They are often used when a tooth needs more support than a filling can provide.

Stainless steel crowns are commonly used in pediatric dentistry because they are strong, durable, and designed to fit baby molars.

The AAPD includes stainless steel crowns among common restorative options for children's teeth.



When Is a Filling Used?

A white filling may be recommended when:

- The cavity is smaller
- The tooth still has strong walls
- The cavity is in an area that can hold a filling well
- The tooth can stay dry during treatment
- The child can cooperate long enough for the filling to be placed
- The tooth does not need full coverage

Fillings work best when the tooth has enough healthy structure left.



When Is a Silver Cap Used?

A silver cap may be recommended when:

- The cavity is large
- Multiple surfaces of the tooth are affected
- The tooth is weak or likely to break
- A baby molar has had nerve treatment
- A filling may not last well
- The child has high cavity risk
- The tooth needs stronger long-term protection

The goal is to protect the tooth until it is ready to fall out naturally.



Is a Silver Cap Really Necessary?

Sometimes, yes.

If a cavity is too large for a filling, placing a filling may only be a short-term fix. A cap can provide stronger coverage and help reduce the chance of the tooth breaking, leaking, or needing more treatment later.

AAPD guidance notes that not every cavity needs a restoration, but restorative treatment can help remove cavity-prone defects, stop progression, restore tooth structure, prevent infection from reaching the pulp, and preserve tooth position.

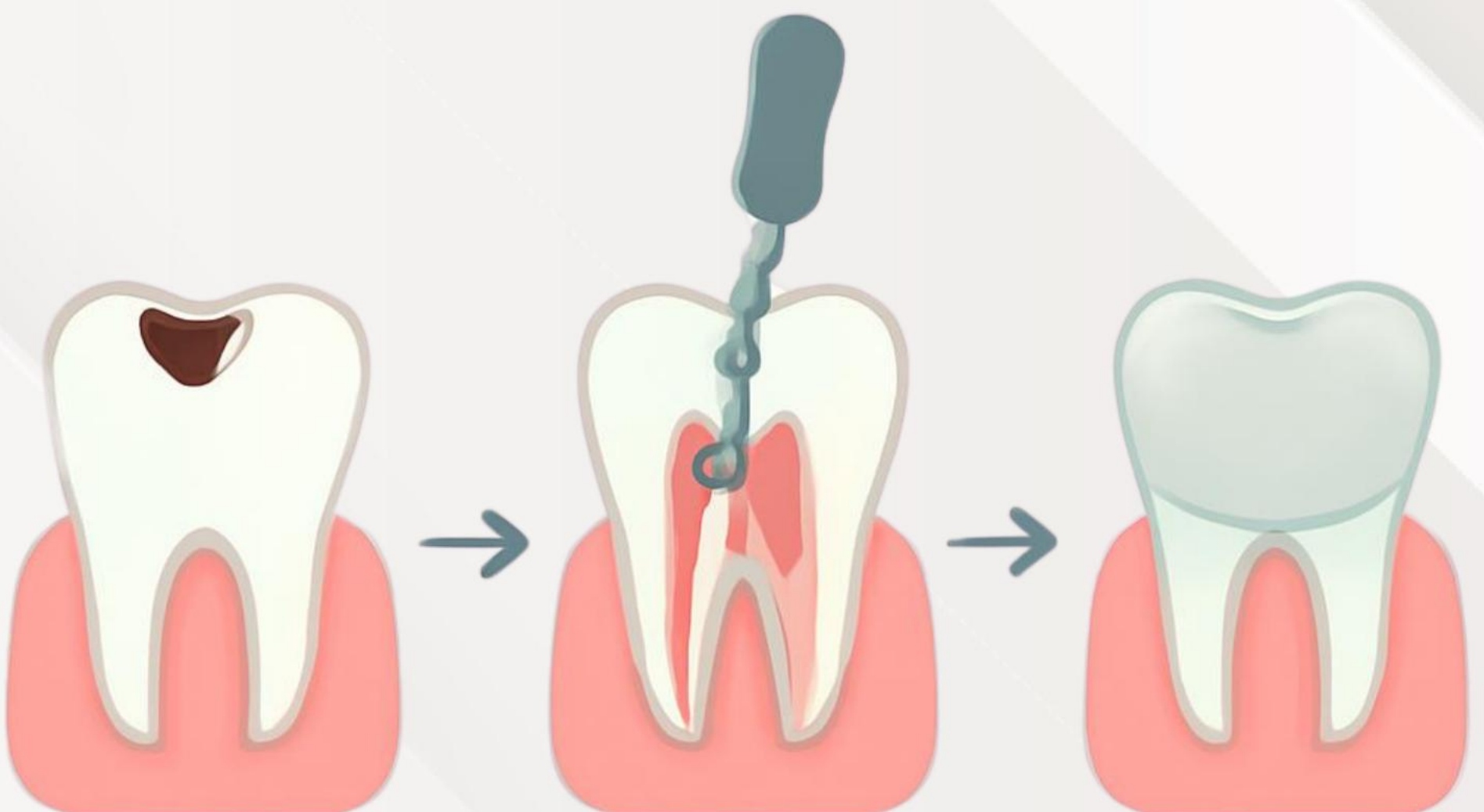


What If the Tooth Had Nerve Treatment?

If decay reaches deep into the tooth, a child may need a baby-tooth nerve treatment, often called a pulpotomy.

After this type of treatment, a crown is commonly recommended to protect the tooth.

AAPD pulp therapy guidance notes that stainless steel crowns have been shown to be an effective long-term restoration after pulp therapy in primary teeth.



How Are Caps Adapted to Kids' Teeth?

Silver caps are **not** adult crowns.

They are made for baby teeth and are selected by size. The dentist adjusts the tooth and crown so the cap fits securely, protects the tooth, and works with your child's bite.

Children's crowns are designed to protect baby teeth while still allowing normal growth and future tooth changes.



Will It Hurt?

The goal is to keep your child comfortable.

Depending on the treatment, your child may receive local numbing, comfort techniques, and sometimes sedation options when appropriate.

At The Tooth Shop, Dr. Perkins explains the plan before treatment so parents understand what is happening and why.

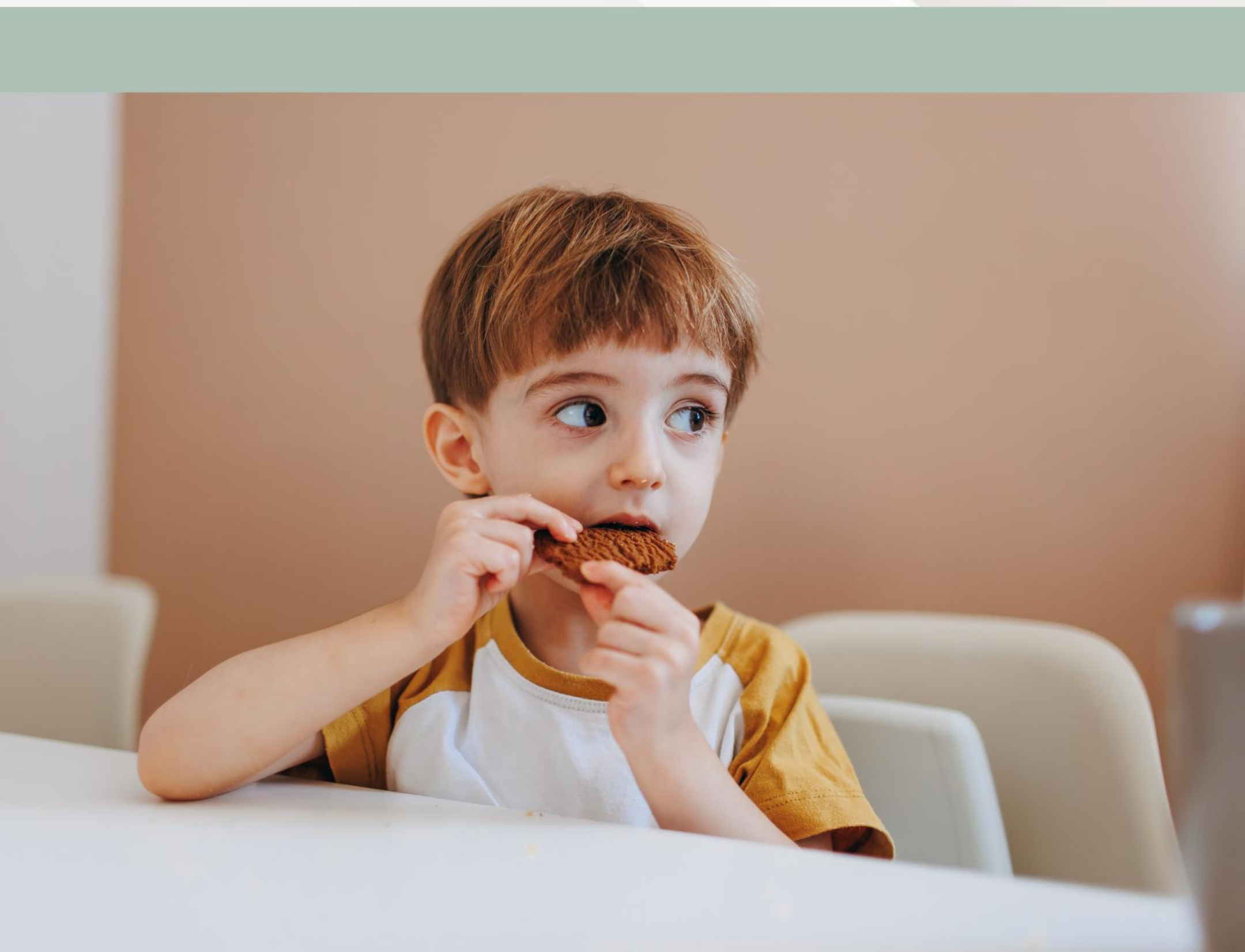


Can My Child Eat Normally Afterward?

Most children adjust quickly.

After treatment, the tooth may feel different for a short time. Parents should follow the dentist's instructions about eating, numbness, sticky foods, brushing, and what to watch for.

Call the dentist if your child has ongoing pain, swelling, trouble biting, or if the cap feels loose.



How Parents Can Help Prevent More Cavities

Treatment fixes the tooth, but prevention protects the rest of the mouth.

Helpful habits include:

- Brush twice daily
- Use dentist-recommended toothpaste
- Help young children brush
- Floss teeth that touch
- Limit frequent sugar and juice
- Choose water between meals
- Keep regular dental checkups
- Ask about sealants when appropriate

Restorative care works best when it is paired with prevention.



Have Questions About Fillings or Silver Caps?

Every child's mouth is different.

The right treatment depends on the size of the cavity, the tooth involved, your child's age, cavity risk, comfort level, and how long the baby tooth needs to last.

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Meet Dr. Perkins

Dr. Jaron Beau Perkins, DMD, is a Pediatric Dental Specialist focused on creating a calm, positive experience for children and families. He earned his degree in Exercise and Wellness from Arizona State University, attended Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, and completed his pediatric dental residency at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Over the past 13 years, Dr. Perkins has practiced in rural and underserved communities in Pennsylvania and Prescott, AZ, treating complex pediatric cases and severe decay. These experiences shaped his compassionate, creative approach to care. He is a member of the AAPD and AAFE.



The Tooth Shop™



"My goal is to help every child feel safe, understood, and confident at the dentist while building healthy habits that last a lifetime."

Jaron Perkins, DMD

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