



Using Technology to Address a Common Need: How the All Smiles Shine App is Working to Build Ease Around Dental Visits

Contributed by Erik Gallery, BCBA, LBA, Navigator Manager

A trip to the dentist's office isn't a highly preferred activity for most people. Even a visit for just a cleaning can produce feelings of anxiety...strange instruments pushed into our personal space, surrounded by uncommon sounds, being unsure if we'll experience pain...it's easy to see why our bodies experience that anxiety. For a person experiencing needs with Autism, these sensations can be significantly heightened.

Besides those of us that experience those feelings personally, there are families dealing with the challenges of either complying with visits to the dentist, or stuck trying to find a dental provider that can aid them in meeting their needs.

Between building greater understanding among our dental providers, aiming to build and adapt more sensory friendly facilities, and addressing the direct needs that persons experience...there is much work to be done in creating more effective and affirming dental visits. One group is working to produce some concentrated effort among one of those needs.

InfiniTeach is a nonprofit organization made up of a neurodiverse team of technology developers, autistic self advocates, and allies. Learn more about InfiniTeach here: <https://www.infiniteach.com/>



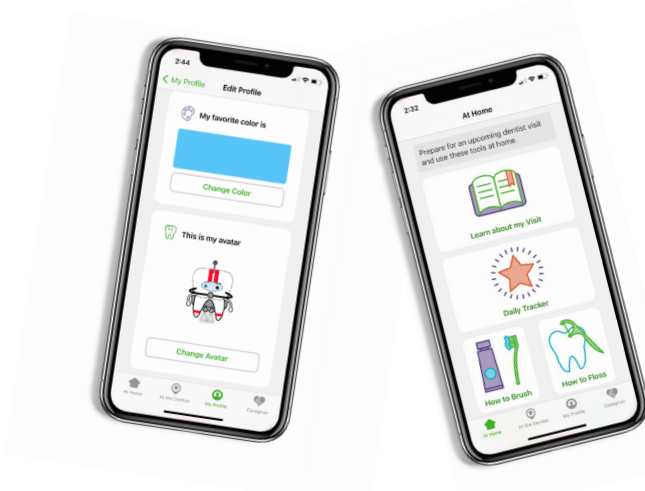
Relating to dental needs, one of InfiniTeach's recent projects is the All Smiles Shine mobile application. This application has been created in partnership with the Delta Dental Foundation and Project Accessible Oral Health.

All Smiles Shine is a free mobile app that can aid children in building their comfortability with visiting the dentist.

The app includes:

- Social narratives that explain the steps of a dental visit
- Exercises to support relaxation
- At-home preventative care tools
- Additional resources for caregivers

cont.



The app also allows a family to create a profile for their child, which can be shared with the dental provider. Caregivers can indicate sensory likes and dislikes, communication preferences, and interests that can be used to help cultivate a successful visit to the dentist.

It should be noted that InfiniTeach is still actively working towards building the accessibility of this tool. In the app's next version, it is planned to include similar resources for Autistic adults that are also experiencing these needs.

The app is free to download via the Apple App Store / Google Play:



<https://free.infiniteach.com/apps/all-smiles-shine/>

If you are in the process of seeking a dental provider, options can be found through AAOM's Resource Directory:

[Resource Directory](#)

You can always reach out to one of our Navigators through the MiNavigator program if seeking individualized consultation or support for this need, or any other related to Autism.

[MiNavigator Page](#)



Commemorating Juneteenth

Contributed by AAoM's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

In 2021, the United States Congress officially made Juneteenth a Federal Holiday. Though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when Union troops in Galveston Bay, Texas announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. This day became known as Juneteenth, it is our country's "second Independence Day" and the day our nation truly became free.

Visiting the Charles H. Wright Museum has left a profound impact on the employees, challenging their perspectives and prompting deep reflection. Employees were asked to document their experience at the museum. Here are some of their personal reflections:

"I feel like this experience has helped me reflect on the experiences of my ancestors and has really highlighted a portion of the struggles that they've faced."

"The experience continues to solidify the fact that more education needs to happen regarding American history. We can't build a better future without understanding the horrors from the past and how those horrors contribute to the systemic barriers in present day."

"A powerful moment during the museum tour, for me, was the point when the tour guide asked us how many slaves were taken from Africa during the entire transatlantic slave trade, and hearing the answer "0". It is so important to recognize that everyone impacted during this horrific tragedy was an individual with talents, creativity, an occupation and made a contribution to society. They were people, and it really opened my eyes to view the slave trade in this way. It truly shifted my perspective and made me aware of the magnitude of the slave trade, but also how many beautiful souls and talent was present."



**Saturday
September
23
2023**
Detroit Zoo



AutismAlliance
of Michigan

AUTISM ALLIANCE OF MICHIGAN PRESENTS

AUTISM HERO WALK-DETROIT

PRESENTED BY **DTE** Foundation



LEARN MORE! FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [AAOMI.ORG](https://aaomi.org) OR CALL **877.463.2266**

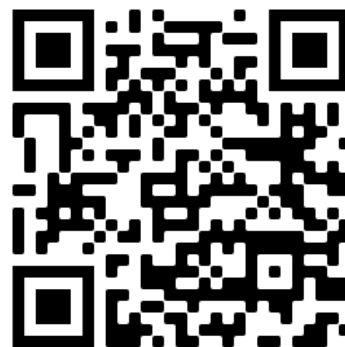


Upcoming Community Events



Date	Event	County
June 26	Summer Theater Try-It-Out Workshop	Ken
June 28	Basketball Camp for Special Needs Players	Wayne
June 29	Barn Dance and Potluck	Mason
July 8	Hockey Mentors for Special Olympians	Oakland
July 8	Cookout at Johnson Park!	Kent
July 13	Day at the Fair	Oakland
July 19	Summer Sizzler	Oakland
July 24	Music, Rhythm, and Exercise!	Macomb
July 26	The Americans with Disabilities Act Celebration	Saginaw
July 29	Family Fun Farm Day	Macomb

Looking for more to do?
Scan the QR Code for
more events!





POWERED BY AUTISM ALLIANCE OF MICHIGAN

Upbound Staffing, a fully integrated program within the Autism Alliance of Michigan, leads and supports disability-employment initiatives throughout the State of Michigan.

Contact Upbound Staffing:

Website: <https://upboundstaffing.com/>

Email: upbound@aaomi.org

Phone: [1-\(248\) 508-8693](tel:1-(248)508-8693)



MiPAAC

MICHIGAN PARENT, ADVOCATE
& ATTORNEY COALITION

Powered by  Autism Alliance
of Michigan

Michigan Parent, Advocate & Attorney Coalition (MiPAAC) is a newly formed statewide group focused on student centered advocacy.

Contact MiPAAC:

[MiPAAC membership Form](#)

<https://mipaac.org/>



MiNavigator

The MiNavigator team is a group of professionals ready to serve and connect those touched by autism with the most up to date services and resources available in our state.

Contact MiNavigator:

Website: <https://aaomi.org/contact-minavigator/>

Email: navigator@aaomi.org

Phone: [877-463-2266](tel:877-463-2266)

Navigators are available Monday through Friday,
from 9 am to 5pm

