Maite – is a vibrant, sweet and now smiley six year old. But during the first three years of Maite’s life she was diagnosed with epilepsy and scoliosis and was taking Phenobarbital to control her seizures. **By Maite’s third birthday 16 of her 20 teeth had cavities.**

Can you imagine your child being faced with so many obstacles by their third birthday?

The Academy of Pediatric Dentists now recommends that children have their first dental visit by the age one, followed by visits every six months for cleanings and exams. Many doctors and pediatricians still tell parents that children do not need to see the dentist until the age of three. Unfortunately, if left untreated early childhood cavities can affect the social development, speech development and the overall health of a child as well as their teeth.

Due to Maite’s young age, complex medical history, and the number of teeth affected by cavities our Director of Pediatric Dentistry decided to treat Maite at The Children’s Hospital (TCH). Dental Aid’s pediatric dentists work several days a month at TCH to complete children’s treatment plans under general anesthesia in one visit, sparing children the stress of multiple office visits. Every year Dental Aid treats more than 200 children at TCH.

**Three years later and Maite has many of her permanent teeth and hasn’t had any more cavities.** Additionally, last year when Maite’s mom found out she was pregnant she enrolled in Dental Aid’s *Bright Smiles for Bright Futures* program. *Bright Smiles* provides pregnant women with the dental and education services needed to foster healthy pregnancies and healthy children.

Maite’s little sister is now four months old and her mom plans to keep her cavity free by having her see one of our pediatric dentists by her first birthday. **Maite and her family have built a special relationship with Dental Aid** – they look forward to their appointments and we look forward to seeing Maite’s beautiful smile!