DENTAL EXAM RESULTS LETTER
(For children identified as needing treatment)

To: Parent or Guardian of: _______________________________________________

From: Head Start Health Manager: __________________________________________

Your child had a dental exam at the Head Start center on __________________________
by Dr. William Peck, at no cost to you. He/she was examined and needs further dental
treatment. Your child was found to have _______ cavities in his/her teeth. Other
comments by the dentist include ___________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Many people believe that baby teeth are not important, but they are. It is critical that
children with cavities receive treatment for these important reasons:

1. Baby teeth are important for eating.
2. Baby teeth are important for speaking and speech development.
3. Baby teeth are important for appearance and the development of good self image.

From a dental standpoint, the most important function of the baby teeth is to make sure
the permanent teeth come in properly. Badly decayed teeth may be lost, leaving an
empty space. The surrounding teeth will move to fill that gap, not leaving room for the
permanent tooth to come in. Also, cavities are infection in the teeth. Cavities left
untreated can become badly decayed, leading to abscesses, a spread of infection to other
parts of the body, or drainage into the mouth. Most important, though, is the fact that
cavities can cause pain and suffering. Young children cannot always tell you what’s
bothering them; they just act out.

It is Head Start’s mission to see that all children identified as needing dental treatment
have the treatment completed by the end of the Head Start school year.

Dental treatment will be provided for your child at no cost to you. If your child is
covered by TennCare, the dental services will be paid by TennCare. If your child has
some other dental insurance, Head Start will pay the dentist’s charges that are not
covered by the insurance. If your child has no dental insurance, Head Start will work
with the child’s dentist to arrange for the billing to be made to Head Start.

Please complete the attached form and return to your child’s center within one week,
indicating your plans to have the treatment completed.