

ID session for youths draws Quincy crowd

By Lynda de Jong
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More than 1,000 people attended a "Toothprints" session in Quincy yesterday in which parents had a mold made of their children's teeth, using a new technique for identification in case a child is lost or kidnapped,

Dentists have been making wax toothprints for children since 1985, and still do. The new technique uses thermal plastic, which can be melted and reshaped as the child grows older. The identification program held yesterday at the Masonic Building in Quincy also offered fingerprinting and videotaping of each child. It was sponsored by the Massachusetts Dental Society in conjunction with the Masonic Lodges of the South Shore.

One of the organizers, dentist David B. Hart, said toothprints were taken of 440 children.

David Tesini, a dentist who practices in Newton, developed the bite impression as a way of safeguarding his own child and other young patients.

Tesini said that in the case of a missing child, authorities can send a copy of the imprints to dental publications for comparisons by dentists.

Joyce Sugrue of Quincy, wait-

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ing while her 3-year-old daughter, Kayla, was interviewed for an identification video, said the youngster had seen an announcement featuring McGruff the Crime Dog on television that morning and asked to go.

"She said she wanted to get fingerprinted in case she got lost, so we came right down," said Sugrue.

Many of the parents on hand yesterday said they had their child's teeth and fingerprints taken in the past for identification purposes, and were updating them. The service was free, and parents were given the records for safekeeping.