



Children's Health Initiative Success Story



Damien Cervantes Santa Cruz County

Erin Petty, 28, is a medical biller for a medium-size group practice in Watsonville. She lives with her mother and is going to school for medical coding. A single parent, Erin has health coverage for herself through her job, but can't afford the cost of adding her son, Damien, 6, onto her plan. Erin also earns too much to qualify for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families programs.

At one point, Erin researched private health insurance for Damien, who attends Starlight Elementary School. However, because he was born with a congenital abnormality, the insurance plan considered him to have a pre-existing condition, and wouldn't cover him.

"Damien is very healthy," said Erin. "He's very active. He loves soccer and baseball and he's never really been sick," she said.

A co-worker told Erin about Healthy Kids, for which Damien qualifies. Now Damien has access to regular pediatric care, including dental and vision services.



"I think all kids should be covered, no matter what," said Erin. "Because they're kids."