

Dental Hygiene Policy

Dated: Friday, 8 August 2003, Revised 5/03/08, Reviewed 16/03/11, Reviewed 18/02/15, Reviewed 9/07/18

Approved By Management Committee _____ **Date** _____

Aim:

This policy aims to:

- a) Promote good dental health behaviour and help reduce the prevalence of Dental Caries (tooth decay) in children
- b) Establish workable practices that can be implemented at the centre to encourage good dental hygiene in the children
- c) Educate the children of the need for good dental hygiene practices
- d) Educate the parents of the need for beginning good dental hygiene practices at an early age and work with them to establish practices that are workable for both home and Centre.

Background:

Children’s first teeth are important because, apart from being needed for chewing and speaking, they help to keep spaces for the permanent teeth. If the first teeth are well looked after, then it is more likely that the second teeth will grow into their correct position. Good dental hygiene practices are important for ensuring the development and on going maintenance of teeth. The earlier good dental hygiene practices are implemented with children, the greater the likelihood of their continuing these practices throughout their lives. To ensure that this happens both the Centre and parents need to work together to establish good hygiene practices that are workable both at the Centre and in the home.

Related Legislation

Education and Care Services National Law (2011): Section 167, 173, 174
Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011): Regulations 12, 85–87, 89, 90 - 91, 92 - 96, 168, 177–178, 181 – 184

Related Policies

Hygiene Policy
Nutrition Policy
Rest Policy

Procedures:

To ensure these aims are met the following practises will be implemented

- 1. Educators will incorporate dental hygiene into the educational program. This will include informal discussion at meal times and group discussions on the importance of teeth – what we use them for, what foods we should eat to protect them and how we should look after them.
- 2. Educators will encourage the swish and swallow method of clearing the mouth of food residue by providing water at all meal times and encouraging all children to have a drink of water at the completion of their meal.
- 3. Educators will ensure that no children are put to sleep with a bottle as per UPCCC Rest Policy.
- 4. Educators will ensure that no children will be given dummies that are showing signs of wear or splitting or that have been dipped in any food or liquid such as honey. Coating dummies in these types of substances may lead to extensive tooth decay and encourage the child to develop a “Sweet Tooth”.
- 5. The Centre will provide parents with information on the importance of good dental hygiene practice. This information will be provided through the monthly newsletter and the provision of pamphlets on dental hygiene being made available in all sections.

6. Educators will also make opportunities to discuss with parents what we do and how they can implement and encourage regular tooth brushing in the home.

References:

Australian Dental Association (Your Dental Health, Babies) Retrieved from: <https://www.ada.org.au/Your-Dental-Health/Children-0-11/Babies> on 9/07/18

Colgate Oral and Dental Health Resource Centre, <https://www.colgate.com.au/oral-health/life-stages/infant-oral-care> , accessed on 9/07/18

Department of Health & Human Services, State Government of Victoria, (2014) Teeth Care. Retrieved from: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/teeth-care> on 9/07/18

Queensland Health, *Preventing Infant Tooth Decay*, http://www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth/documents/plt_prev_decay_08.pdf, accessed on 09/07/18

Queensland Health, *Brushing Toddlers Teeth*, http://www.health.qld.gov.au/oralhealth/documents/plt_brush_teeth_08.pdf, accessed on 19/07/18

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