

Dental Policy

2018

National Quality Standard

2.1.2	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.1.3	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child.

National Regulations

77	Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Practices
88	Infectious Diseases

Aim

Staff will promote good dental and oral hygiene behaviour in children and families, in order to contribute to reducing the incidence of dental cavities in children, and facilitate the prevention and management of dental trauma in children.

Dental health in children has improved in the last decade, however, many children continue to have cavities at a very young age and the prevalence is higher in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Children are also susceptible to dental trauma from falls.

Effective dental and oral care is important for the children's wellbeing and although care of the teeth and mouth often begins at home, staff can play a significant role in supporting and introducing dental care both in the centre and at home.

A dental health policy is important in promoting good dental and oral health behaviour in children and will help reduce the incidence of dental cavities and reduce the impact of dental trauma.

Who is affected by this Policy?

- * Management
- * Educators
- * Children
- * Families

Implementation

To promote good dental and oral hygiene behaviour in children and families, to contribute to reducing the incidence of dental cavities in children and to facilitate the prevention and management of dental trauma in children, staff should:

- Record on enrolment the name, address and phone number of each child's dentist and have a contact number for an after hours or emergency dentist or dental clinic.
- Provide dental and oral health education and health promotion programs (for example oral health literature for children, families and staff).

Dental and oral hygiene and prevention of cavities:

To promote dental hygiene and help reduce the incidence of cavities:

- * Promote the provision of water as the healthiest drink for young children.
- * Encourage children to have dairy products high in calcium as part of their daily food intake.
- * Encourage children to avoid foods high in sugar at most times
- * Encourage children to have a drink of water after eating at the centre in order to help keep their teeth clean
- * Promote dental hygiene through regular formal and informal discussion.
- * Provide families with up-to-date information in regards to dental hygiene and practices.
- * Display posters/information to promote dental hygiene and practices
- * Annual visit to the centre by dental care promoting teams.

Dental Accidents:

To facilitate the prevention and management of dental trauma in children, services should:

Facilitate training for child care staff in dental first aid in consultation with public health dentists. The training should include training staff to be able to identify the difference between deciduous (baby teeth) and permanent teeth and to be skilled in dealing with a dental emergency and applying first aid for a dental injury.

First Aid for a knocked out or chipped tooth in a child:

If a child has a dental injury where the tooth is chipped or the whole tooth is knocked out staff should:

- * Manage as an emergency, inform the parents/ family and complete an injury report form.
- * Do not reinsert the tooth back into the socket (avulsed deciduous teeth are not usually placed back).
- * Gently rinse the tooth or tooth fragments in clean milk or saline water if unavailable use clean tap water to remove blood and place in a clean container or wrap in cling wrap to give to the parent or dentist.
- * Keep the tooth in a glass of milk.
- * **Seek dental advice** as soon as possible and ensure the tooth/tooth fragments are taken to the dentist with the child.

Sources

- * <http://kidshealth.org/parent/general/teeth/healthy.html>
- * Early Childhood Australia: <http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/>
- * The Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority:
- * Australian Dental Association- <http://www.ada.org.au> Accessed April 2012

Review

Last Reviewed: 19/52018

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