

DENTAL HEALTH PROCEDURE

Early Childhood Staff have an important role to play in promoting and implementing good oral health practices. Policies are vital to promote good dental hygiene behaviour in children, to reduce the incidence of dental caries and to facilitate the prevention and management of dental trauma in children.

Working in conjunction with the Dental Health Policy, this procedure provides detailed steps for educators to promote the importance of good dental health to children and families.

Education and Care Services National Law or Regulations (R. 78 and 87) NQS QA 2: Element 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 Health practices and procedures

Related Policy: Dental Health Policy

DENTAL HEALTH		
1	The Director/ Nominated Supervisor will display Dental hygiene posters at regular intervals at the Service	
2	The Director/ Nominated Supervisor will provide families with Dental health brochures and information	
3	Educators will discuss Dental health with children and with parents via newsletters and meetings	
4	Educators will actively seek, maintain and provide families with current oral health and nutrition resources from recognised authorities	
5	The Service will provide and maintain a healthy food policy that is consistent with advice from recognised authorities	
6	Educators will provide direct access to and encourage the drinking of fresh water frequently throughout the day and after mealtimes	
7	Educators will model and actively discuss sound oral health practices	
8	Educators will incorporate information on oral health and nutrition into children's learning program	
9	Educators will encourage and support families in seeking dental care where appropriate	
10	Educators will report to families any sign of tooth caries, any accident, injury or suspected injury to teeth and gums, gum swelling, infection of the mouth, or problems, pain or discomfort the child has with chewing, eating or swallowing.	
11	The Service will develop policies and strategies in consultation with public health dental therapists, parents and staff	

12	Educators will provide appropriate dental and oral health education and health promotion programs (including oral health literature for children, families and staff in home languages)	
13	Educators will avoid the use of bottles containing sweetened milk, fruit juices, cordials or soft drinks	
14	Educators will avoid using food as behavioural rewards or dipping pacifiers (dummies) in sweet substances (honey, jam)	
15	Educators will offer water to drink in preference to carbonated drinks, flavoured milk and fruit juices	
16	Educators will ensure meal planning incorporates low sugar intake and high calcium intake to support dental health	
17	Educators will encourage children who are old enough to rinse their mouth through a swish and swallow technique with water after each meal	
18	The Nominated Supervisor or events coordinator will organise the local Dentist to come visit the Service annually	