



Policy No: CE-POL-024/1.2/2014

Dental Care Policy

Custodian: Management
Committee

Custodian Contact:
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Version No: 1.2

Approved By:
Melissa Smithen
- Chairperson

**On behalf of the Management
Committee.**

Approval Date: 27/11/19

Next Review Date: 27/11/22

Supersedes: Dental Care Policy
Version 1.1

1 Purpose:

To promote and encourage good dental health practices, including healthy eating and drinking habits, tooth brushing and visits to oral health professionals.

2 Scope:

Approved Provider (at this site we have 2 approved providers-DfE and the Management Committee)
Nominated Supervisor
Educators
Children & Families
Students & volunteers

3 Supporting Documents:

[Child health policy](#)
[Healthy food supply and nutrition policy](#)
[Safe sleep and rest policy](#)

4 Policy Details:

Decay in the primary teeth can mean children may develop decay in their adult teeth also. Teeth cleaning alone isn't a guarantee against tooth decay, diet and the way children are fed are also important. Therefore the centre will implement a wide range of practices that support and promote the importance of good oral health.

5 Procedures:

Tap water is the main drink and will be offered throughout the day as it is an important source of fluoride. (Fluoride acts both before & after teeth come through to prevent tooth decay- *CYH website*)

The Centre has regular snack and meal times every 1 ½ -2 hours. After eating children are encouraged to rinse their mouths with water- either through drinking or swishing- to remove food debris after meals and snacks.

Information on dental hygiene and care will be incorporated into the curriculum.

Educators will act as positive role-models to children and families in relation to good dental practices.

Educators will be aware of dental first aid and receive appropriate updates to this training where appropriate.

Parents will be informed immediately of any incident or suspected injury or issue with their child's dental health; including teeth and gums, swelling, infection or other discomfort associated with chewing or eating food.

The centre provides families with regular information from recognised health authorities about dental hygiene and health care practices.

The centre will arrange for dental health professionals to attend the centre to discuss good dental health practices with educators, children and family members.

Bottles, dummies and dental health

Only plain milk or water will be accepted in children's bottles from home.

Children will be encouraged to sit or lie down whilst having a bottle, rather than carrying them around.

Bottles that are offered to children at sleep times will be removed as soon as the bottle is finished or the child is asleep (whichever occurs first).

Educators will not place food or any other substances on children's dummies.

The centre encourages parents to check their child's dummy and bottle teats for signs of splitting as these can be areas that harbour bacteria.

(Child & Youth Health recommend that babies should stop using a bottle by 1 year of age)

6 Related Regulations and Legislation

7 Definitions of Terms:

DfE- Department for Education

8 References:

Child & Youth Health website, "Teeth, dental care & children", accessed on-line 23/10/19 from:

<http://www.cyh.sa.gov.au/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetails.aspx?p=114&np=301&id=2519>

Raising Children-the Australian Parenting website, accessed on-line 23/10/19 :

Dental care for babies

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/babies/health-daily-care/dental-care/dental-care-babies>

Dental care for toddlers

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/health-daily-care/dental-care/dental-care-toddlers>

9 Reviewing Strategy and History:

Review should be conducted every three years to ensure compliance with this procedure

Version No.	Reviewed By	Approved By	Approval Date	Revision Description
1	Management Committee Parents & educators	Maud Giles- Chairperson	26/11/14	New format Updated referencing
1.1	Management Committee Parents & educators	Scott Dolman Chairperson	22/6/17	Minor changes Updated references updated revision history
1.2	Management Committee Parents & educators	Chairperson	27/11/19	Minor changes Changed review period to every 3 years Updated references updated revision history