

DENTAL HYGIENE POLICY

AIM

To ensure parents, staff and medical professionals know their responsibilities in ensuring children have good dental hygiene and begin to develop dental hygiene habits.

IMPLEMENTATION

Leadership will:

- Actively seek, maintain and provide families with current oral health and nutrition resources from recognised authorities including encouraging families to assist children in brushing their teeth in the morning and at night.
- Provide and maintain a healthy food policy that is consistent with advice from recognised authorities like 'Right Bite' and 'Get Up and Grow'. Children will be provided with age appropriate foods e.g. no hard biscuits or crackers in ages where teeth are developing.
- Ensure educators implement our sun smart policy for prevention of lip cancer
- Model and actively discuss sound oral practices
- Ensure information is available to families regarding oral hygiene and nutrition.
- Develop appropriate policies regarding bottle and dummy habits for children to prevent tooth decay. This includes ensuring children will not be put to sleep with their bottles or be allowed to walk around with bottles in their mouth.
- Develop policies and procedures regarding first aid practices for dental injuries.
- Organise 'Lift the Lip' screenings annually.
- Report any dental injuries on IRMS.

Team Leaders will:

- Ensure staff follow current first aid practices for dental injuries.
- Ensure information about oral health, hygiene and nutrition exists within the curriculum
- Ensure educators provide direct access to and encourage the drinking of fresh water frequently throughout the day. Children can bring their own bottles of water to access from their bags if they choose. Children in the Nest room will be offered water at regular intervals.
- Ensure educators are aware of and implement this policy.
- Ensure there are spare sterilised bottles in the Nest room for feeding if not provided by families.
- Encourage children in the Reeds and River room to drink from cups instead of bottles at meal times or when they are thirsty/hungry.
- Contact families if a child incurs a mouth or tooth injury.

Families will:

- Understand that staff will not brush children's teeth after meals at the Centre. Where a medical practitioner has advised that a child must follow a certain dental hygiene routine, an oral eating and drinking care plan must be completed by a medical practitioner and parent.
- Provide bottles, dummies and teething rings if their child requires them in accordance with safe sleeping policy.

Administrative staff will:

- Ensure permission to 'Lift the Lip' is on the enrolment form and distribute permission slips for annual visits from SA Dental service.

EVALUATION:

This will be seen to be effective when: families and educators are aware of their responsibilities.

National Quality Standards:

Element 2.1.2. Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.

Implemented: January 2011 (as Health Management)

Reviewed: March 2023

Next Review: March 2024