



Dental Health Policy

Introduction:

Dental hygiene is an important preventative health practice. Regular dental care and oral hygiene combined with a healthy diet assists in fostering good dental health.

Aim:

- To promote good dental health behaviour to reduce the prevalence of tooth decay in all young children
- To facilitate the prevention and management of dental trauma in accidents and incidents in our service

Legislative Requirements / Sources:

Education and Care Service National regulations (2011)
Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010
National Quality Standard: 7.3
NSW Little Smiles – Dental Health Resource Package 2010

Implementation:

Dental Health

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Provide opportunities for children and families to have access to community experts on dental health and oral hygiene
- Provide families with information on dental health for babies & young children
- Ensure daily menus provide foods that contribute to healthy teeth and gums

- Encourage educators to undertake professional development in regards to dental health

Educators and staff will:

- Ensure that no bottles or drink bottles contain sweet liquids (i.e. juice or cordial)
- Educators will encourage children to finish bottles before going to sleep to avoid teeth decay
- Educators will encourage children to finish drinking their bottles in a reasonable amount of time
- Educators will encourage children to drink water after meals and regularly throughout the day
- Educators will encourage children to eat/try healthy age appropriate foods
- Discuss dental health and hygiene with children spontaneously during meal times and/or during the day and during planned experiences
- Encourage the children to ‘Sip, swish and swallow’ water at the end of their meal

Dental Trauma

The Nominated Supervisor will:

- Develop and implement strategies to protect children from falls and damaging their teeth
- Ensure at least one staff member with current first aid training is on the premises during opening hours

Educators and staff will:

- Ensure appropriate supervision to prevent falls and accidents as much as possible
- Follow current first aid guidelines in relation to dental trauma
- Ensure first aid certificates are kept current
- Organise a dental hygiene incursion each year

Review:

This policy is available in other languages upon request.

This policy is the intellectual policy of Maryland Care & Early Education and is created with consultation of educators and families attending the Service.

Reviewed: August 2018

Next review: August 2020

