



Policy No: CE-POL-024/2/2014

Dental Care Policy

Custodian: Management
Committee

Custodian Contact:

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Version No: 2

Approved By:

Amelia Thiele
- Chairperson

**On behalf of the Management
Committee.**

Approval Date: 20/09/23

Next Review Date: 20/9/26

Supersedes: Dental Care Policy
Version1.2

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

Responsible Person on Duty

Educators

Children & Families

Students & volunteers

3 Supporting Documents:

[Administration of first Aid Policy](#)

[Child health policy](#)

[Food Handling & Storage policy](#)

[Healthy food supply and nutrition policy](#)

[Safe sleep and rest policy](#)

[SA Health Fact Sheet Feeding Babies and Food Safety](#)

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.

Bottles, dummies and dental health

We support Breast feeding and breast milk provision.

- The Centre supports breast feeding mothers and breast milk provision.
- Mothers who are breast-feeding are welcome to breast feed in her child's room/group, in an area most comfortable for her to do so.
- Expressed breast milk can be brought in fresh or frozen.
- Procedures for storing, thawing and warming of breast milk (as recommended in the NHMRC Infant Feeding Guidelines, 2012) are attached to this policy.

We facilitate Bottle feeding.

- We ask that parents supply bottles from home clearly labeled with the child's name.
- If formula is required, we ask parents to supply this in powder form, with written instructions provided to staff. Bottles will be prepared by educators at the Centre in line with current Infant Feeding Guidelines.
- "Cow's milk is not recommended for children under 12 months of age as it lacks sufficient iron and vitamins for growth and development" (Start Right Eat Right, 2008).

Guidelines for preparation and warming of infant formula are included in [SA Health Fact Sheet Feeding Babies and Food Safety](#)

Children will be encouraged to sit or lie down whilst having a bottle. 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 and switch to a sippy cup after 12 months of age)

Dental trauma & emergency first aid

Baby (primary teeth)

Babies and toddlers who have just started crawling or walking are prone to hurting themselves. Bumps, knocks and spills are all a part of growing up, but long-lasting damage can occur if a child's teeth are injured and left untreated. Knowing how to administer dental first aid could save a child from long-lasting damage.

Step 1

If a child knocks out a baby tooth do not attempt to put it back in. Keep the tooth moist at all times by storing it in a small container with a small amount (enough to cover the whole tooth) of milk or saliva. Do not place the tooth in water.

Do not wrap the tooth in tissue or cloth as this will dry out the tooth

Step 2

Telephone the parents to collect their child and make an immediate dental appointment, because dental professionals are best qualified to assess the damage and recommend the correct course of action. Take the knocked-out tooth with you, so your dentist can ensure that the entire tooth has been knocked out and not just a part of the tooth.

Step 3

Complete the necessary documentation and notifications as required.

6 Related Regulations and Legislation

Education and Care services National Law Act 2010

Education and Care services National Regulations 2011

Reg 77	health, hygiene and safe food practices
Reg 78	Food and beverages
Reg 85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
Reg 86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
Reg 87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record

7 Definitions of Terms:

DfE- Department for Education

8 References:

Dental care for babies, accessed online 15/8/23

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

Dental care for toddlers , accessed online 15/8/23

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

SA Dental website, accessed on line 15/8/23 at url: <https://www.dental.sa.gov.au/advice>

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	Melissa Smithen Chairperson	27/11/19	Minor changes Changed review period to every 3 years Updated references updated revision history
2	Management Committee Parents & educators	Amelia Thiele Chairperson	20/9/23	Changes to section about bottles, dummies and dental health Inserted section on Dental trauma and emergency first aid Updated references updated revision history