DENTAL HEALTH AND DENTAL ACCIDENT 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.

A dental emergency may occur whilst a child is being educated and cared for by the Service from a fall or collision with another child or a knock to the face. Knowing the correct first aid may save the tooth.

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 and detailed steps for educators to follow in the event of a dental accident at the Service.

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 Policies: Dental Health Policy, Administration of First Aid Policy and Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy

DENTAL HEALTH		
1	The nominated supervisor and educators will review and update the Service's *Dental Health Policy* each year to ensure appropriate response strategies are in place in the event of a dental emergency	
2	The Service will consult with public health dental therapists, during the review of the *Dental Health Policy*	
3	The nominated supervisor will display dental hygiene posters at regular intervals at the Service	
4	The nominated supervisor and educators will actively seek, maintain and provide families with current oral health and nutrition brochures, information and resources from recognised authorities via newsletters and meetings	
5	The Service will provide and maintain a healthy food policy that is consistent with advice from recognised authorities	
6	Educators will role model, actively discuss and incorporate oral health practices and nutrition into children's learning program	
7	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)	
8	Educators will encourage and support families in seeking dental care where appropriate	
9	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.	

10	Educators will avoid the use of bottles containing sweetened milk, fruit juices, cordials or soft drinks	
11	Educators will avoid using food as behavioural rewards or dipping pacifiers (dummies) in sweet substances (honey, jam)	
12	Educators will ensure meal planning incorporates low sugar intake and high calcium intake to support dental health	
13	Educators will provide direct access to and encourage the drinking of fresh water frequently throughout the day and after mealtimes	
14	Educators will encourage children who are old enough to rinse their mouth through a swish and swallow technique with water after each meal	
15	The nominated supervisor or events coordinator will organise the local Dentist to come visit the Service annually	

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 000		
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A MOUTH/TOOTH INJURY		
The child may have bleeding from the mouth, lips or gums Pain around the mouth Loose or broken tooth (from impact) Swelling of lips or jaw Inability to open or close their mouth/jaw		
PROCEDURE FOR MOUTH OR DENTAL INJURY		
1	Educators will respond to the child immediately and implement first aid procedures while remaining calm	
2	Educators will implement DRSABCD following an incident	
3	Call an ambulance immediately if: • the child is having trouble breathing or • there is a lot of blood going down the throat, or • if there is swelling of the tongue or throat that could affect breathing	
4	If there is a lot of blood in the mouth/gum, apply firm but gentle pressure to stem bleeding	
5	An educator will try to find the tooth and place in a container. A dental professional may want to see the tooth and/or the tooth fragment(s).	

6	It is vital to know if the tooth or tooth fragment(s) has been inhaled. Inhaled teeth are a medical emergency, and the child MUST be taken immediately to the Emergency Department of a hospital for a check-up and a possible chest x-ray	
7	Educators are to gently place the tooth or tooth fragments in milk or saline to avoid dehydrating and damaging the delicate cells on the root	
8	The nominated supervisor or educator will notify the parent/guardian or emergency contact to collect the child as soon as possible to seek dental or medical advice as soon as possible	
9	Educators will accurately document the child's symptoms on the *Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record*	
10	If emergency services attend, the nominated supervisor will ensure the regulatory authority are notified as soon as possible and within 24 hours of the injury, illness or trauma.	

REVIEW OF PROCEDURE			
Date procedure created	03/12/2024	To be reviewed	December 2025
Approved by	Krystle Hills	Signature	
Procedure Reviewed Date	Modifications/Changes		
December 2024	Dental Health Procedure and Dental Accident procedure merged and reviewed. Heading changed to *Dental Health/ Dental Accident Procedure*		