

DENTAL POLICY

NQS 2.1.2, 2.1.3 February 2018

By providing guidelines for nutritious food in the Centre's Healthy Food and Drink Policy, the Centre promotes high standards in dental care. We encourage families to provide foods containing low sugar, salt and fat and support healthy development of children's teeth by having water available at all times.

Educators will:

- Provide current information regarding healthy eating guidelines and foods that help prevent tooth decay
- Ensure that children who are bottle fed do not go to sleep with a bottle
- Provide a dental clinic enrolment form to parents upon enrolment at the Centre

Curriculum links:

Where possible, the Children's Centre will schedule visits from a qualified Dental professional to explain the importance of dental care and relevant pamphlets for parents and carers are available at the Children's Centre. Families are informed when a dental health professional visits the Children's Centre so that ideas and strategies are implemented at home. Care of the teeth and mouth should begin at home and support strategies are implemented in our program by having regular conversations about teeth, their function and how to care for them by singing relevant songs and providing books, puzzles, lotto games and by using the materials provided in the Colgate education kit.

Procedure relating to a dental emergency:

In the event of a primary (baby) tooth being knocked out:

- Do not replace the tooth back into the socket
- Advise parent/ guardian immediately so they can seek dental advice as soon as possible – take any root fragments with you to the dental professional
- Complete incident report and follow reporting incident procedure.

If a permanent tooth is knocked out:

- Find the tooth
- Handle the tooth by its crown, not by the root
- If the root has debris on it, gently rinse tooth in milk or saline solution for a few seconds only and store safely with the child's own saliva
- Don't attempt to vigorously clean the tooth
- Don't let the tooth become dry
- Replace the tooth in its socket immediately if the patient is conscious. Hold the tooth in place with foil and/or a handkerchief.
- Contact parent or guardian so they can contact the dentist as soon as possible.

If you can't replace the tooth in its socket:

- Store it in milk or child's own saliva
- Contact parent or guardian so they can seek medical/dental help immediately
- Complete incident report and follow reporting incident procedure.

For families requiring multilingual resources: www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au has fact sheets available.

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REVIEWED:

TO BE REVIEWED: March 2019

SOURCED: SA Dental Services www.sadental.sa.gov.au
Teeth Smart SA
Victorian Government Dept. of Human Services, 2001
Women's and Children's Hospital
Women's and Children's Health Network www.cyh.com
Staying Health in Childcare 5th edition