



1. Introduction

Dental decay is a 100% preventable disease, but prevention must begin in the pre-school years. Research has shown that oral health promotional messages delivered effectively to pre-school children can create positive behavior that results in healthy teeth and mouths for life. Children are also susceptible to dental trauma from falls.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all Children's Services operated by Coast Services Group Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of CCCL) and our employees. This applies to Centre based day care services and Outside school hours care services.

3. Policy

Children's Services Educators will facilitate effective care and health management. Children's Services will promote good dental and oral hygiene behavior in children and families to contribute to reducing the incidence of dental caries in children, and to facilitate the prevention and management of dental trauma in children.

4. Procedures and Implementation

All Children's Services will:

- 4.1 Offer water to drink in preference to carbonated drinks and fruit juices.
Drinking water is offered and available for children to access throughout the day.
- 4.2 Inform the family any sign of tooth cavities, 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.
- 4.3 Request parents to record on enrolment form the name and phone number of each child's dentist.
- 4.4 Avoid the use of nursing bottles to help a child fall asleep.
- 4.5 Avoid offering foods which are choking hazards to infants and young children.
- 4.6 Encourage children to drink water after eating and before rest times, to rinse their mouths.
- 4.7 Encourage discussion with the children about correct dental care.
- 4.8 Provide dental health resources for children to explore.
- 4.9 Encourage a local dentist or dental health worker to visit The Occasional Care Children's Centre to promote dental care.
- 4.10 Provide parents with information on dental care principles and practices so that correct dental care can be encouraged at home.
- 4.11 OSHC Services will provide fresh fruit for afternoon tea.

Other related policies and procedures

Injury, Incident, Illness and Accident Policy

Injury, Incident, Illness and Accident Report