

DENTAL HEALTH POLICY

Good oral health is important for good general health and wellbeing for children. It allows children to eat, speak, socialise and learn without pain or discomfort. Education and Care Services and Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Services are ideal settings for promoting the importance of good dental health to children and families.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1	Health	Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.1.3	Healthy Lifestyles	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND NATIONAL REGULATION	
78	Food and beverages
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record

RELATED POLICIES

Administration of First Aid Policy Health and Safety Policy	Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy Nutrition and Food Safety Policy
--	---

PURPOSE

We aim to promote children’s general wellbeing by creating an environment that supports healthy dental and oral health habits and practices that can be maintained throughout the child’s life. Our Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) Service will provide food and drinks with consideration to the sugar content and ensure that drinking water is always available.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, educators, approved provider, nominated supervisor, students, volunteers and visitors of the OSHC Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

Our OSHC Service believes it is important for all children to practice a high level of dental hygiene. We follow the guidelines of the Australian Dental Association and State Government Health Departments when caring for children's teeth.

We provide information and guidelines on good dental health practices, which are implemented into the daily routine, including swish and swallow after mealtimes, providing information about brushing teeth and tooth friendly snacks and drinks, and going to the dentist.

To minimise the risk of cavities forming we encourage children to eat nutritious foods and to avoid sticky and sugary foods. All food served and prepared at our OSHC Service comply with these guidelines by providing a variety of recommended vegetables, fruit, and dairy products. Children will be encouraged to drink water.

MANAGEMENT/ THE APPROVED PROVIDER/ NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- that obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations are met
- educators, staff, students and volunteers have knowledge of and adhere to this policy and associated procedure
- Ensure that food and drinks provided by the OSHC Service adhere to recommendations from organisations such as [Munch and Move](#) (NSW) and the Department of Health and Age Care program [Get Up and Grow](#), and other recognised authorities. The Royal Children's Hospital of Melbourne recommends that children should avoid foods and drinks such as:
 - Chocolate
 - Lollies
 - Sweetened breakfast cereals
 - Biscuits
 - Fruit bars
 - Dried fruit
 - Muesli bars
 - Soft drink
 - Flavoured milk
 - Juice
 - Sports drinks
 - Cordial
 - Flavoured water

- always ensure children have access to safe drinking water
- ensure the routine incorporates ‘swish and swallow’ after each meal or snack time
- provide information to families about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS)
- ensure enrolment form contains up to date information about each child’s family dentist (in case of emergency).

EDUCATORS WILL:

- provide opportunities to discuss dental health education and food and drink choices to support dental health with children
- provide resources to support dental health learning such as books, posters, ‘giant’ teeth and toothbrushes, etc
- pay particular attention to meal and snack times to ensure healthy food is being eaten.
- encourage ‘swish and swallow’ after each mealtime
- provide dental care information to families through newsletters, posters, web links and brochures
- promote Dental Health Week with children and families each year.

DENTAL EMERGENCIES

It is important for educators to be aware of how to manage dental accidents and emergencies. Our OSHC Service will:

- ensure there is an educator on duty with current first aid qualifications to follow dental accident procedures
- ensure procedures for Adminstrating First Aid are adhered to (including completing a Illness, Accident or Trauma record)
- ensure families are notified of any injury as soon as is reasonably practicable
- ensure that the phone number of an emergency dentist is located near the office phone
- ensure children are supervised at all times to minimise accidents and incidents.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

Our *Dental Health Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with children, families, staff, educators and management.

CHILDCARE CENTRE DESKTOP- RELATED RESOURCES

Administration of First Aid Procedure Dental Health Procedure	Incident Injury Trauma and Illness Record
--	---

SOURCES

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014)
 Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2024). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#).
 Australian Government Services Australia Child Dental Benefits Schedule
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/child-dental-benefits-schedule>
 Dental Health Services Victoria: <https://www.dhsv.org.au/oral-health-advice/Professionals/early-childhood>
 Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023)
[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (Amended 2023)
 National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC) (2006). Ask a child care adviser: Dental health. *Putting Children First*, 18, 10-12
 Raising Children Network: www.raisingchildren.net.au
[Western Australian Education and Care Services National Regulations](#)

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Libby Haines	Director	September 2024
POLICY REVIEWED	SEPTEMBER 2024	NEXT REVIEW DATE	SEPTEMBER 2025
VERSION NUMBER	V8.09.24		
MODIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> policy maintenance - no major changes to policy minor formatting edits within text hyperlinks checked and repaired as required 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
SEPTEMBER 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual policy review links to health programs added within policy sources checked for currency continuous improvement/reflection section added CCD related resources added 	SEPTEMBER 2024	