

Oral Health & Hygiene Policy

We understand the importance of promoting good dental and oral health across our settings and as part of this, we also aim to highlight the importance of making healthy choices regarding food and drink options.

The staff will support the children within their setting by:

- Including oral health within the curriculum and providing learning opportunities where appropriate, eg. within the home corner, small world, stories, discussions, action songs, arts and crafts, etc.
- Arranging visits from a dentist, hygienist, or someone similar who is able to discuss good oral health practices in an age-appropriate way for the children
- Healthy, nutritionally balanced food that has been approved by the Early Years Nutrition Accreditation partnership is provided throughout the day
- Milk or water available
- Foods with a high sugar content will only be provided on a very limited basis, eg. a special occasion
- Supporting parents with healthy weaning, including how to move from breast or bottle feeding to using an open cup by 12 months
- Having an awareness of children potentially at high risk of poor oral health
- Encouraging and using sugar-free medication when needed

The settings will not undertake toothbrushing, but management and staff will work alongside parents from as soon as teeth come through, to support them in implementing an effective toothbrushing routine at home. Staff will work alongside external professionals (eg. Health Visitor) where needed, to support families and to share any concerns they may have regarding poor oral hygiene.

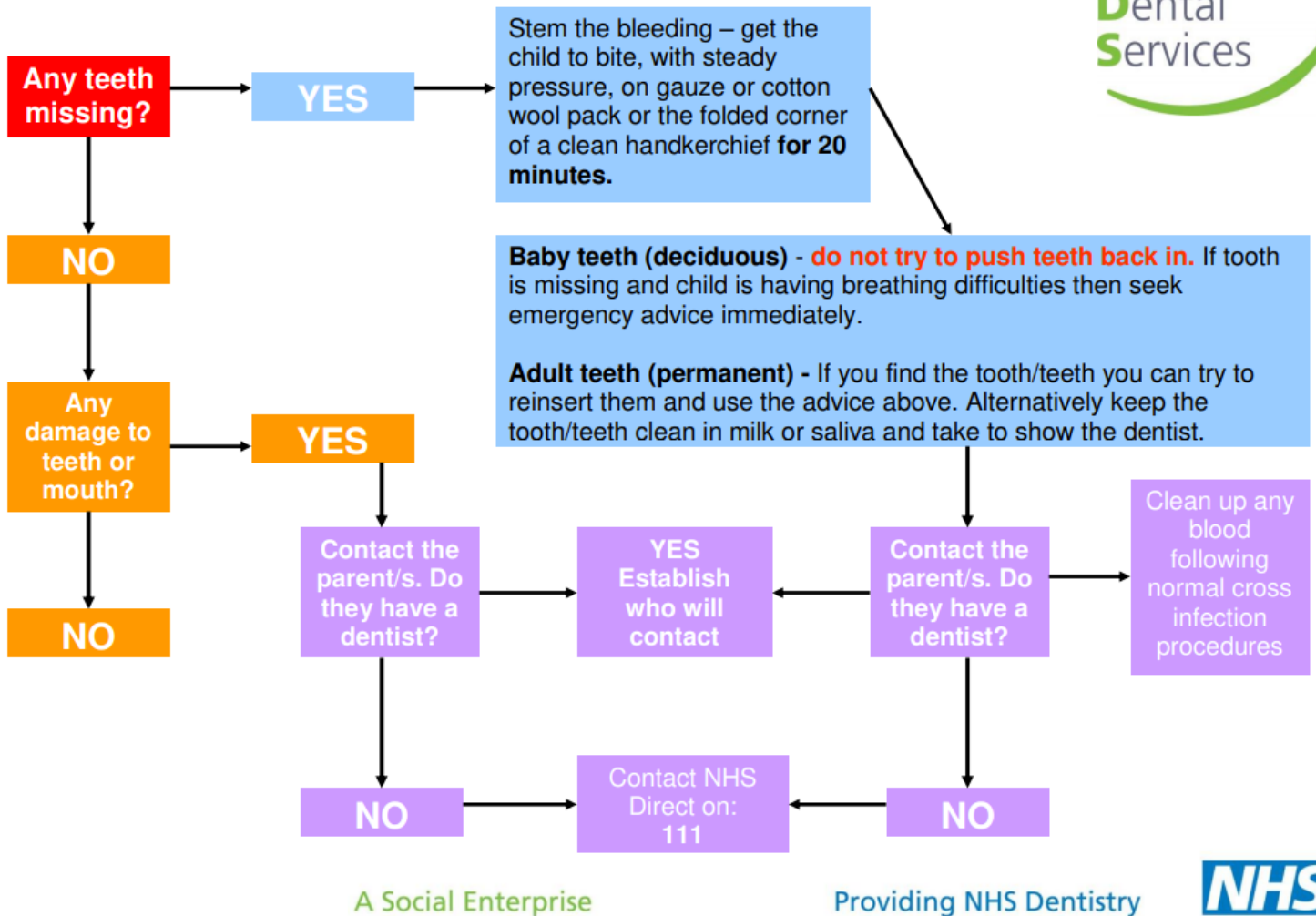
Extra support provided to the parents to include:

- Leaflets with further information given as part of a welcome pack for families joining the settings – information regarding local dentists, details of how to access routine and emergency dental services, explaining who is entitled to free dental treatment, what to do in a dental emergency, etc.
- any children who are entitled to two-year funding or are fully funded will be given a toothbrush and toothpaste as part of their pack
- supporting with culturally appropriate advice and information on oral health where applicable

The staff play a vital role in supporting the oral health and hygiene of the children and this extends to their own oral health and hygiene habits. Staff are encouraged to make healthy choices regarding food and drink when with the children and to provide positive feedback to them about the foods they are provided at mealtimes. Staff have the option to eat a hot meal provided by the nursery and they are not to eat foods seen to be unhealthy in front of the children. Staff are encouraged to drink water instead of squash and fizzy drinks are to be consumed within the staff room only.

In the event of a dental accident where the mouth/teeth/gums have been injured of anyone within the setting, staff are required to follow the flowchart below and accident/incident forms are to be completed as soon as possible.

Dental Accident Flowchart



If a staff member has concerns about injuries to a child/staff members mouth, teeth or gums that has happened outside of the setting, this must be reported to a Child Protection Coordinator and documented immediately.

Date of Policy Review:		
Date of Final Version:		
Final version signed off by:	Julie Downton - Operations Manager	Joy Scadden - Director
Date of Next Review:		
Review to be undertaken by:		