

## 2.30 DENTAL HEALTH STATEMENT

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### INTRODUCTION

Good oral health is essential to general wellbeing. Good dental hygiene in early childhood is a key factor in the development of healthy adult teeth. In Australia, large numbers of children spend time in non-parental care. Early childhood services and staff are in a unique position to guide the development of preventative health practices through the promotion of oral hygiene.

### PURPOSE

To promote good dental health behaviour in children.

### STRATEGIES

#### Parents will

- Provide nutritious teeth friendly foods and drinks according to the school's nutrition guidelines.

#### Educators will:

- Encourage parents to provide vegetables or fruit for a snack
- Ensure access to safe drinking water at all times
- Minimise the provision of sugary foods
- Educate children about dental health
- Provide dental care information to families upon request

NB: Children up to the age of 6 need adults to assist in tooth brushing. Time prohibits the staff from giving children the 1-on-1 time and supervision they require for effective tooth brushing. The high risk of cross contamination and the hygiene factor of storing and cleaning toothbrushes, also makes tooth brushing an ineffective procedure at the school.

<b>Relevant Legislation</b>	Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011. Reg. 77-79, 168 Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 Work, Health and Safety Act 2011
<b>Related to NQS QA</b>	2.1
<b>Related Policies</b>	Nutrition Requirements Policy
<b>Sources &amp; Further Reading</b>	NSW Health Little Smiles Dental Health Package

POLICY REVIEWED	MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE
January 2021	Updated copy	2024