

DENTAL POLICY NQS 2.2.1 Version 1.10

By providing a nutritious menu, the Children's Centre promotes high standards in dental care. The food we offer is recommended by the South Australian Dental Service and the Women's and Children's Hospital. We have **limited sugar** and no salt added to our meals and we support the healthy development of children's teeth by offering water and milk at lunch time. Cheese will also be offered at snacks and in some meals, which also assists in the development of healthy teeth.

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.
- encourage families to participate in the SA Dental 'Lift the Lip' program.

Curriculum Links:

Where possible, the Children's Centre has regular 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 can be used 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 and Lotto games as part of our curriculum.

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
- Seek dental advice as soon as possible – take any root fragments with you to the dental professional

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 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
- Seek medical / dental help immediately.

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

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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