

<b>Policy title</b>	2.16 Dental Hygiene
<b>Policy type</b>	Management
<b>Group</b>	Family and Children

## Rationale

The publication issued by the Victorian Department of Health, *Healthy Together Victoria: Action Plan for Oral Health Promotion 2013–2017*, outlines a framework for oral health activity across Victoria. This strategy supports the development of environments such as children’s services which are supportive of good oral health.

Under the *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* the approved Responsible Person and other Responsible Persons have responsibility for supporting the health, protection, safety and wellbeing of all children. Children’s services’ staff/contractors can influence health behaviours such as good dental habits in early life, which set a pattern into adulthood.

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure Moonee Valley City Council practises and promotes the importance of good dental health as an essential part of children’s general health and wellbeing.

## Policy statement

Learning about healthy lifestyles, including nutrition, personal hygiene (such as dental hygiene), physical fitness, emotions and social relationships, is integral to children’s health, wellbeing and self-confidence. When children develop resilience, their ability to take increasing responsibility for self-help and basic health regulars promotes a sense of independence and confidence. As children become more independent, they can take greater responsibility for their own health, hygiene and personal care.

Council is committed to encouraging good dental habits and minimising the risk of dental decay from food and drink provided at the service.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Responsible Manager</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Document No</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
Family and Children’s Services	Michele Leonard	2.16 Dental Hygiene Procedure	17/150850	August 2017	August 2019

<b>Procedure</b>	2.16 Dental Hygiene Procedure
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<b>Action</b>	<b>Approved provider</b>	<b>Responsible Person or Primary Nominee</b>	<b>Educator/contractor</b>	<b>Families</b>	<b>Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011</b>	<b>Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010</b>	<b>Children's Services Regulations 2009 &amp; Children's Services Act 1996</b>
Ensure adherence to this Policy and Procedures.	✓	✓	✓		r.170		
Provide current information to educators/contractors and families on good oral hygiene practices and local dental services.		✓	✓		r.77		r.78
Facilitate group and individual discussions with children about oral hygiene practices.		✓	✓		r.77		r.78
Toothbrushes will not be used at the service as they cannot be hygienically washed and stored, and therefore the potential risk of cross-infection is higher.		✓	✓	✓	r.77		r.78
After eating, encourage children to have a drink of water to help cleanse their mouths of food particles.		✓	✓		r.77		r.78
Never settle children in beds with bottles in their mouths as this is proven to increase decay in teeth and heighten the risk of ear infections.		✓	✓		r.77		r.78

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Action	Approved provider	Responsible Person or Primary Nominee	Educator/contractor	Families	Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011	Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010	Children's Services Regulations 2009 & Children's Services Act 1996
Staff/educators/contractors are not to dip dummies in any foods and/or liquids, nor fill a child's bottle with a sweetened drink. This may lead to dental decay and development of a 'sweet tooth' where it can be difficult for a child to cut down on sweetened foods and drinks.		✓	✓		r.77		r.78
If a parent/guardian has provided the service with a bottle of sweetened drink for their child, inform them of the service's good nutrition practices for healthy teeth and request the parent/guardian to replace the sweetened drink with water.		✓	✓	✓	r.77		r.78
Deciduous (first) teeth are important as they guide the eruption and development of permanent teeth. If a deciduous tooth is avulsed (knocked out), do not place it back in the socket. Deciduous teeth which have been replaced tend to fuse themselves to the tooth socket and difficulties arise when it is time for the tooth to be shed. Also, the permanent tooth underneath can be damaged when the deciduous tooth is replaced.		✓	✓		r.77		r.78
Permanent teeth: If an avulsed (knocked out) permanent tooth can be replaced in the socket immediately, it has an excellent chance of surviving. Every minute the tooth is out of the socket decreases the chance of the tooth surviving.		✓	✓		r.77		r.78

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***First aid procedures for an avulsed (knocked out) permanent tooth:***

1. Find the tooth.
2. Handle the tooth by its crown, not by its root.
3. If root has debris on it, gently rinse tooth in saliva, milk or cool water for a few seconds only.
4. Do not attempt to clean the tooth with vigorous scrubbing or cleaning agents.
5. Replace the tooth in its socket immediately. Hold the tooth in place with some foil and/or by gently biting on a handkerchief.
6. Contact your dental professional immediately.

**If you cannot replace the tooth in its socket:**

1. Wrap the tooth in gladwrap or store in milk.
2. Seek dental help immediately, as it is essential that the tooth be replaced as quickly as possible.

Source: *Dental Health for Children 0-6 Years, Information for Maternal and Child Health Nurses*, Public Health Division, Department of Human Services, Victorian Government, 1998.

Refer to the Dental Hygiene Policy and Procedures.

Communicate with staff/educator/contractor about this child's dental health and needs.

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## Resources and useful websites

This Policy and Procedures are aligned to the following National Quality Standard

[www.acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/the-national-quality-standard](http://www.acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/the-national-quality-standard)

Raising Children Network

[http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/dental\\_care\\_preschoolers.html/context/430](http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/dental_care_preschoolers.html/context/430)

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