

**Oral Health Policy**

Effective dental and oral care is important for children’s current and future health and wellbeing. Care of teeth and mouth begins at home. Staff also play a significant role in either supporting or introducing strategies for dental care in child care and at home.

Effective dental health for children is closely related to the development of healthy adult teeth. The centre will promote and implement effective health practices that relate to:

* Dental care activities
* Visiting the dentist
* The types of food and drink consumed
* Awareness of nutrition and healthy eating
* Providing up to date information and support for families.

Staff will use real opportunities to discuss oral health. These real opportunities may include, meal times, cooking activities, health and nutrition discussions and home routines and lifestyles.

The centre invites dental health professionals for input into the program.

Staff have nutritional training and are conscious of the need to promote meals, snacks and drinks that support a sound beginning for ongoing dental care for young children.

**Source**

* Putting children first NCAC, June 2006
* Australian Dentist Association, July 2008

**Referenced National Quality Standards**

* **Quality Area 2** **– Children’s Health and Safety**
  + **2.1** Each Child’s health is promoted.
  + **2.2** Healthy eating is promoted & food & drinks provided by the service are nutritious

and appropriate to the age of the child.

* **Quality Area 5 – Relationships with Children**
  + **5.1** Respectful & equitable relationships are developed & maintained with each child.
  + **5.3** Each child’s behavior, interactions and relationships are guided effectively.
* **Quality Area 6 – Collaborative Partnerships with Families & Communities**
  + **6.2** Families are supported in their parenting role and their values and beliefs about

child rearing are respected.

* + **6.3** The service collaborates with other organizations and service providers to enhance

children’s learning and wellbeing.