



# Oral Health Policy

*UNCRC in Article 24: Children have the right to good quality health care – the best health care possible – to safe drinking water, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help them stay healthy. Rich countries should help*

Strathburn ELC promotes high levels of age appropriate oral care and education linked to the importance of making good choices about what we should be eating/drinking.

The following policy has been written based on, [Setting the table - Nutritional guidance and food standards for early years childcare providers in Scotland, NHS Health Scotland, 2014](#); [National Standards for Nursery and School Toothbrushing Programmes, Childsmile, May 2015](#); [Health and Social Care Standards My support, my life; Care Inspectorate, 2017](#).

- The Early Years Lead Practitioner (EYLP) is the designated lead person who is responsible for the tooth brushing programme and ensures a benefit risk assessment is carried out prior to starting the programme.
- As part of the induction process the parent/carer is informed about the tooth brushing programme. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform staff if the child has any requirements e.g. will use their own toothpaste. A record of this is maintained by the setting in individual care plans and the key worker is aware of this.

*1.28 I am supported to make informed lifestyle choices affecting my health and wellbeing, and I am helped to use relevant screening and healthcare services*

- If the parent/carer **does not** wish for their child to take part in the tooth brushing programme, they must contact Childsmile directly to arrange this.
- Toothbrushing is carried out at a designated time and place.
- Toothbrushes are replaced once a term, or sooner if required (for example, when the bristles become splayed) this is the responsibility of each Early Years Practitioner (EYPs) who will maintain their own storage bus and toothbrushes. [HPS, 2018, "Infection Prevention and Control in Day-care and Childminding Settings"](#)
- Toothbrushes are individually identifiable for each child.
- Toothbrushes are stored in appropriate storage systems or individual ventilated holders.
- Storage systems which do not have covers are stored within a designated trolley or in a clean, dry cupboard.
- Storage systems, trolleys and storage areas are cleaned, rinsed and dried at least once a week (more if soiled) using warm water and detergent.



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- Local monitoring of tooth brushing programmes by Childsmile staff occurs twice per school year. Monitoring includes observation of the tooth brushing session; discussion of the Standards with the EYLP; feedback to the local Childsmile Coordinator and arrangement of a follow-up visit.
- Staff will follow the tooth brushing guidelines set out by Childsmile
- Childsmile information will be available to staff and will be located in the policy folder.
- Food/drink choices offered during snack will follow the guidelines set out by *Setting the table*.

It will be the responsibility of the Early Years Senior and Lead Practitioner to ensure that new or temporary staff are familiar with this policy and that the policy is being implemented by all staff. This policy will be reviewed annually and changes made as appropriate.

**Training on tooth brushing can be found at :**

<http://www.child-smile.org.uk/professionals/training/CPDprovided.aspx>

(or by contacting your assigned Childsmile coordinator )

**February 2023**