

Oral Hygiene

Policy: Children will learn and practice proper oral hygiene skills.

Procedure:

- All children in a classroom setting will brush their teeth at least once each day after a meal.
 - Children ages two years and older will be assisted by staff or a volunteer as needed.
 - Children ages 1-2 years will have their teeth brushed by a staff or volunteer.
- Children enrolled in a home-base option will brush their teeth after a snack at a home visit or socialization. Parents of infants will be given an age-appropriate tool for oral care, such as a piece of disposable gauze or infant toothbrush.
- Age-appropriate amounts of fluoride toothpaste will be used.
- To reduce the risk of cross-contamination, toothbrushes in the classroom setting will be individually labeled and toothpaste will not be applied directly to toothbrushes from the tube.
- Toothbrushes will be thoroughly rinsed and allowed to dry in storage racks that allow air to circulate but do not allow brushes to touch each other.
- Toothbrushes will be replaced at least every 3 months, or more often if children are ill.
- Toothbrush holders will be cleaned and sanitized at least monthly, or more often as needed.

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard [45CFR Section 1304.23](#)

Approved by Policy Council on February 16, 1999

Revision Approved by Policy Council on 3-22-2005.

Update Approved by Policy Council on 2-10-2016.