

DENTAL HEALTH POLICY

Early childhood is an important time for developing good dental hygiene practices. From the time a baby starts teething, keeping gums and teeth clean can safeguard against cavities in the ‘baby’ teeth which can also cause damage to the permanent teeth underneath. Dalas Family Day Care Service promotes the importance of good dental health to children and families.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1	Health	Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
2.1.2	Health practices and procedures	Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.
2.1.3	Healthy Lifestyles	Healthy eating and physical activity are promoted and appropriate for each child.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
78	Food and beverages
87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record

Victorian Child Safe Standards	
Standard 1	Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued
Standard 2	Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture
Standard 3	Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously
Standard 4	Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing
Standard 5	Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice
Standard 6	People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice
Standard 7	Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused
Standard 8	Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training
Standard 9	Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed

Standard 10	Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved
Standard 11	Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved

RELATED POLICIES

Administration of First Aid Policy Bottle Safety and Preparation Policy Health and Safety Policy	Incident Illness Accident and Trauma Policy Nutrition and Food Safety Policy
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PURPOSE

We aim to promote children's general wellbeing by creating an environment that supports healthy dental and oral health habits and practices that can be maintained throughout the child's life. Dalas Family Day Care Service will provide food and drinks with consideration to the sugar content and ensure that drinking water is always available.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the Educators, Educator Assistants, children, families, and visitors of the Family Day Care Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

We believe it is important for all children to practice a high level of dental hygiene. We follow the guidelines of the Australian Dental Association and State Government Health Departments when caring for children's teeth.

We provide information and guidelines on good dental health practices, which are implemented into the daily routine, including swish and swallow after mealtimes, providing information about brushing teeth and tooth friendly snacks and drinks, and going to the dentist.

To minimise the risk of cavities forming we encourage children to eat nutritious foods and to avoid sticky and sugary foods. All food served and prepared at our FDC Service comply with these guidelines by providing a variety of recommended vegetables, fruit, and dairy products. Children will be encouraged to drink water.

Dalas Family Day Care Educator will:

- ensure that food and drinks provided by the FDC Service adhere to recommendations from organisations such as *Get Up and Grow*, and recognised authorities. The Royal Children's Hospital of Melbourne recommends that children should avoid foods and drinks such as:
 - Chocolate
 - Lollies
 - Sweetened breakfast cereals
 - Biscuits
 - Fruit bars
 - Dried fruit
 - Muesli bars
 - Soft drink
 - Flavoured milk
 - Juice
 - Sports drinks
 - Cordial
 - Flavoured water
- always ensure children have access to safe drinking water
- ensure the routine incorporates 'swish and swallow' after each mealtime
- ensure enrolment form contains up to date information about each child's family dentist (in case of emergency)
- provide opportunities to discuss dental health education and food and drink choices to support dental health with children
- provide resources to support dental health learning such as books, posters, 'giant' teeth and toothbrushes, etc.
- pay particular attention to meal and snack times to ensure healthy food is being eaten.
- encourage 'swish and swallow' after each mealtime
- give children bottles before they go to bed. When children take a bottle to bed it allows the lactose (sugar) in the milk to sit on their teeth which can cause tooth decay.
- arrange visits by dental professionals so that children and families can learn correct brushing techniques and oral care
- provide dental care information to families through newsletters, posters, professional visits, web links and brochures.
- provide information to families about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS)
- promote Dental Health Week with children and families each year.

Dental Emergencies

It is important for Educators to be aware of how to manage dental accidents and emergencies. Our Family Day Care Service will:

- ensure all FDC Educators and Educator Assistants have current first aid qualifications to follow dental accident procedures
- ensure procedures for Adminstrating First Aid are adhered to (including completing an Illness, Accident or Trauma record)
- ensure families are notified of any injury as soon as is reasonably practicable
- ensure that the phone number of an emergency dentist is located near the office phone.
- ensure children are supervised at all times to minimise accidents and incidents.

SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Dental Association <https://www.ada.org.au/Dental-Health-Week-2021>

Australian Government Services Australia *Child Dental Benefits Schedule*

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/child-dental-benefits-schedule>

Dental Health Services Victoria: <https://www.dhsv.org.au/oral-health-programs/achievementprogram/early-childhood-education>

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011)

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (amended 2020)

National Childcare Accreditation Council (NCAC) (2006). Ask a child care adviser: Dental health. *Putting Children First*, 18, 10-12.

Raising Children Network: www.raisingchildren.net.au

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED	August, 2022	NEXT REVIEW DATE	August 2023
MODIFICATIONS			
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS		NEXT REVIEW DATE

December 2020	Policy was purchased from Child Care Desktop	August 2021
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