

Handout Title	School Age 6-10 years
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HELP Me
smile

Oral Health Risk Assessment Protocols,
Training Modules and Educational Materials
for Use with Families of Young Children.



School Age 6-11 Years

FLUORIDE

- Makes teeth stronger and protects them from tooth decay.
- Is found naturally in water and some foods.
- Is added to many community water systems (tap water) when there isn't enough natural fluoride.
- Is also available through drops, tablets, gels, toothpastes, mouth rinses, and varnishes.
- Ask your doctor or dentist which type of fluoride is right for you and your family.



BRUSHING AND FLOSSING TEETH

- Brush teeth two times a day to remove plaque.
- Brush for two-three minutes reaching all teeth.
- Brushing should be supervised by an adult until the child is 6-8 years old.
- Floss once a day – starting at age 8 with adult assistance.
- Replace toothbrush when bristles are frayed.
- Wipe the gums of infants with a wet cloth after each feeding.



STAINED AND DISCOLORED TEETH

Teeth can be discolored or stained on the surface and/or discolored from the inside of the tooth. The stain or discoloration may be all over the tooth or appear as spots or lines in the enamel.

Causes:

- Trauma to the tooth
- High fever when tooth is forming
- Excessive fluoride
- Taking tetracycline before 8 years of age
- Not brushing teeth and gums
- Tooth decay
- Drinking cola, coffee or tea
- Old silver fillings
- Tobacco products



SPOTS ON TEETH

WHAT DOES TOOTH DECAY LOOK LIKE?

- **White spots** on teeth are the first sign of tooth decay. They look chalky and white and are found near the gums where plaque forms. These spots can be reversed if they are brushed and kept clean. Early cavities are not the only white spots that can be found. A dentist can tell the difference between early decay and white spots that are not health problems such as those that are from too much fluoride.
- If the teeth are not brushed and taken care of then the **white spots** will turn in to **brown spots** on the teeth. This is more advanced tooth decay. Any brown spot is not normal and should be checked by a dentist. Just because the brown spot doesn't hurt, doesn't mean it's not a cavity.



NUTRITIOUS SNACKS

Meal and snack choices can play a big part in the health of your teeth.

Between meals, help control plaque, bacteria and acids by:

- Eating healthy, low-sugar snacks
- Limiting how often snacks are eaten
- Avoiding sweets that stick to the teeth



DENTAL HOME

A dental home is an office or clinic where you and your family feel

welcome and have formed a relationship with the dentist and feel

comfortable receiving dental care on a regular basis.

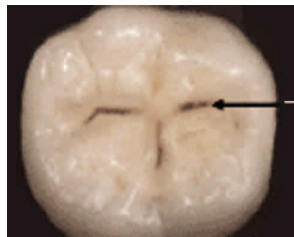
The staff at your dental home . . .

- Checks your teeth
- Keeps teeth healthy and attractive
- Gives advice on oral health issues
- Provides current information on the condition of your family's gums, teeth, and bite



TOOTH DECAY OR CAVITIES

- The most common type of cavity starts in the grooves of the back teeth which cannot be completely cleaned by brushing, but where food usually sticks. Cavities also start on smooth surfaces that can easily be brushed and flossed.
- When it comes to cavities, how often sugary foods are eaten is more important than the amount eaten. Changing the diet to decrease how often sugar is eaten is very important.
- Plaque + food + teeth = cavity or decay.



BAD BREATH

Bad breath can be caused by:

- Poor oral hygiene
- Food debris
- Certain foods like garlic and onion
- Dry mouth
- Tobacco products
- Medical disorders
- Gum disease

If you don't brush and floss every day then food collects between the teeth, on the tongue and around the gums causing bad breath. So brush your tongue when you brush your teeth.

See your dentist if bad breath does not go away



BLEEDING GUMS

Gums that bleed can be a sign of gingivitis which is an infection and swelling of the gums. Symptoms include:

Red, soft or swollen gums, bad breath and bad taste in the mouth caused from not brushing and flossing the teeth every day.

Pregnant women and untreated diabetics are more likely to get gingivitis.

Gums that bleed can also be a sign of periodontal disease. Periodontal disease causes infected gums to pull away from the teeth because of damaged bone around the teeth. Left untreated your teeth may become loose and fall out.

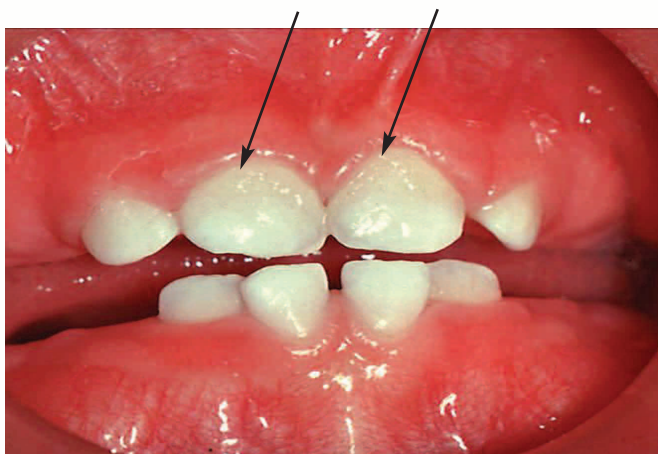
Brushing and flossing are the best ways to prevent gingivitis and periodontal disease.

Bleeding can also be caused by injury to gums from sharp objects like a tooth pick if not used carefully.



PLAQUE

- Cavity-causing bacteria live in plaque.
- Plaque is a soft, yellow-white, sticky material found on teeth and gums.
- Plaque irritates the gums and causes tooth decay.
- Daily brushing and flossing removes the plaque and helps keep teeth and gums healthy.
- If plaque is not removed from the teeth daily, the gums become red, soft and swollen and bleed easily during tooth brushing.



TOOTH INJURIES AND PREVENTION

If a dental injury occurs:

- Find tooth- Do not try to put a baby tooth back in the child's mouth.
- Control bleeding by applying firm but gentle pressure to the area.
- Comfort the child.
- Take the child and the tooth to dentist.
- If a permanent tooth is knocked out, gently replant the tooth into its socket. Have the child hold it in place with a tissue. If it's not possible to replant the tooth, place it in a glass of cool skim or low-fat milk and see your dentist immediately. To prevent mouth injuries, follow all safety precautions for children's toys and equipment.

To prevent mouth injuries to your child:

- Do not leave him/her unattended.
- Do not purchase or let him/her use a walker.
- Install safety gates on stairs.
- Encourage use of bicycle helmet when riding toys and bikes.
- Have emergency number of doctor/dentist easily available.



Dental Sealants

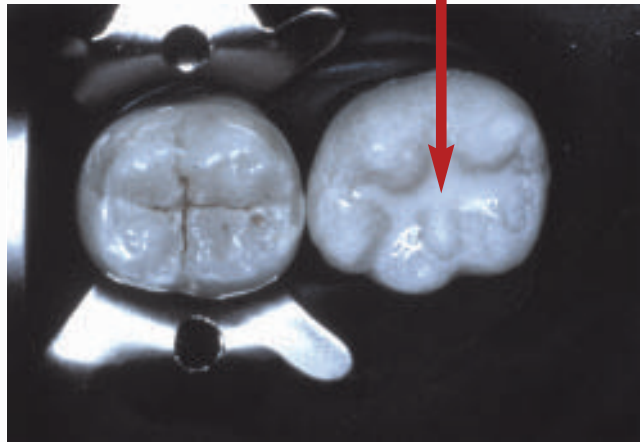
Most tooth decay starts on the back teeth because they have small grooves and pits where germs and food can hide.

Teeth can be protected from tooth decay by fluoride, which is found in water, toothpaste and mouth rinse. Fluoride is good for the sides of your teeth, but the chewing surfaces with the pits and grooves need special protection.

A sealant is a plastic coating that can be applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth to keep out germs that cause tooth decay. Sealants work and are easy to apply.

Applying a sealant is an easy 3-step process.

1. A dentist or hygienist may clean the chewing surfaces of your teeth.
2. A cleansing liquid is gently rubbed on the teeth and is washed off in one minute.
3. Finally, the sealant is painted on the teeth. It takes about one minute for the sealant to form a protective barrier.



MouthGuards

A mouthguard is a flexible appliance made out of plastic, which fits around the upper teeth because they are the most frequently injured. It is worn during athletic and recreational sports.

A mouthguard can prevent serious injuries such as concussions, cerebral hemorrhages, jaw fractures and neck injuries by helping to avoid situations where the lower jaw is thrust into the upper jaw. Mouthguards are effective in preventing cutting and bruising of the lips and cheeks, especially for those who wear orthodontic appliances.

Sports for which mouthguards are recommended include:

Acrobatics	Gymnastics	Skateboarding
Baseball	Handball	Skiing
Basketball	Lacrosse	Skydiving
Bicycling	Ice Hockey	Soccer
Boxing	Martial Arts	Squash
Discus	Racquetball	Volleyball
Field Hockey	Rollerblading	Water Polo
Football	Rugby	Weightlifting
Shotputting	Wrestling	

There are three types of mouthguards:

Stock - available at most sporting good stores and is the least expensive and least protective.

Mouth Formed or Boil and Bite - most commonly used mouthguard on the market. Wearer fits guard to mouth after softening with boiling water. This type is the most uncomfortable to wear.

Custom-made - individually designed and constructed by a dentist. It provides good fit, quality and is best at preventing injuries.

