Classroom Toothbrushing and Program Instructions in Oral Health

RHSOHC  Regional Head Start Oral Health Consultants
Link to Website for Program Instruction in Oral Health


- Other helpful information will also be found at this site
“Beginning February 2007, the Office of Head Start (OHS) will monitor compliance with 45 CFR 1304.23 (b) (3) by reference to the following minimum requirements...”
Toothbrushing for children age two and over

“Once daily, after a meal, Head Start staff (or volunteers, if available) should assist children in brushing their teeth using a small smear of toothpaste that contains fluoride”
Toothbrushing...
Are some children reluctant?

- Others rush through it carelessly?
Make it a group activity... for learning, fun.. and better oral health
Advantages

- A calm systematic way to teach oral hygiene and accomplish daily requirements
- Children see their teacher brushing – role modeling
- Enables monitoring the amount of time each child brushes
- Sitting at the child’s level allows for better observation of brushing techniques, than standing by a sink
Using an egg timer allows children to learn how long they should be brushing and monitor their progress.
When to brush?

- Once daily
- After the meal
1 & 2 - paper towels (table cloth & napkin)
3 – A smear; Less than pea size toothpaste on cup rim
4 - Cup for spitting
Note: no water in the cup
1. Toothpaste with fluoride
2. Less than pea size...
3. Put it on the rim.....

The toothpaste tube does not touch any toothbrushes – no germs are shared
Toothbrushing is role modeled, monitored for cleaning all parts of the mouth and using adequate time.
Brush, brush, brush

Scrubbing is fine. Don’t expect circles at this age
- Spitting (to avoid swallowing toothpaste) is role modeled and monitored
- No rinsing is needed
Use the napkin
- Put the napkin in the cup to absorb liquid
- ..and dispose of the paper and cup
Rinse the brush
- Stow the brush for drying
Many Methods of Toothbrush Storage: separation and drying are essential.
- No toothbrush covers needed
- Ventilation holes
- Spacious compartments for drying
- Wash drawers in a dishwasher
- prevdentsp@aol.com  $24.99
- Not role modeled
- Varied amounts of brushing time
- Technique may not be as closely monitored

- One child at a time is more time consuming
- Uses water; toothpaste more likely to be swallowed
For children between one and two years of age

- Once daily, after a meal, Head Start staff (or volunteers, if available) must brush children’s teeth with a soft bristled toothbrush, using a small smear of toothpaste that contains fluoride.
Toothbrush adaptations for 1-2 year old children

Enables the child to begin learning how to brush
Dispensing toothpaste for 1-2 year old children

Avoid spreading germs

- Dispense toothpaste onto a tongue blade, and wipe it onto the brush or

- Use individual small tubes of toothpaste
For infants under the age of one

“At least once during the program day, staff or volunteers must wash their hands and then cover a finger with a gauze pad or soft cloth and gently wipe infants’ gums”
Should gloves be worn while brushing 1-2 year old children’s teeth or wiping infant’s gums?

- Gloves are not usually required, but wash hands before and after brushing each child’s teeth or wiping gums.

- If gloves are worn, be alert to possible latex allergies; wear latex free gloves.
Assuring Dental Care

With 90 days of entry into the program
- Determine....does the child have a dental home?
- Up to date with EPSDT dental schedule?
- If not, assist parents to bring up to date
- If up to date assure continuity
- Track health care services provided
- Obtain or arrange testing, examination and/or treatment by appropriate professional for observable, known, or suspected health or developmental problem

- Programs are allowed more than 90 days to complete needed treatment

Note: EPSDT is Medicaid’s determination of requirements for Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment
Determining Compliance

Head Start staff or consultants who have training and experience in a health profession and EPSDT schedules determine if performance standards and program instructions have been fulfilled.
Helping Parents Whose Children Are Not Up-To-Date

Includes, but not limited to:

- Education about importance of care
- Identify dentists who accept Medicaid or provide free/low-cost services
- Arrange transportation to dental office
- Provide transportation (with written consent)
- Bring dentist or mobile clinic to Head Start
Who are appropriate dental professionals for examination and treatment?

- All states, except Minnesota, require that a dentist provides examination and provides or supervises treatment.
- Minnesota allows collaborative practice dental hygienists to provide assessment, triage and referral to fulfill EPSDT dental examination requirements.
- Dental screening by a non-dentist is not required and does not fulfill the examination requirement.
Dental Provider Shortages?

A limited solution for providing dental examinations:

- Local dentists may provide examination at the Head Start site
- A mobile dental clinic may be engaged to provide examinations/treatment on site
The Goal – A Dental Home

A source of continuous, accessible comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective oral health care delivered or directed by a professional dentist
For Children with a Dental Home

- Head Start grantees must ensure that the child continues to follow the recommended schedule of well child care as required by 1304.20 (a)(1))ii)(B)

- All Head Start staff should be alert to emerging need for dental care for children with or without a dental home
Access to Medicaid

- Help parents enroll their children in Medical to enable payment for dental AND medical services

- Know your State’s eligibility criteria, service coverage, and provider reimbursement practices

- [http://64.82.65.67/medicaid/states.html](http://64.82.65.67/medicaid/states.html)
Head Start may pay for dental services if:

- The child is not covered by Medicaid or the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- There are no dentists available who accept Medicaid/SCHIP
- Must document efforts to find other funding
Children NEED Oral Health For....

- Freedom from pain and infection
- Ability to study and learn
- Normal facial development
- Ability to eat nourishing food
- Self esteem
Achieving the Goal!

“You’re not healthy without good oral health”

Dr. C. Everett Koop,
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