

## Document Summary

<b>Document Title</b>	Dental Policy	<b>Revision / Publish Date</b>	21/4/2010	<b>Next Date for Review</b>	20 April 2012
<b>Revised By Author</b>	Natalie Higgins	<b>Approved By</b>	Natalie Higgins & Sharon Carrafa	<b>Policy Reference</b>	OHS_Policy_ Dental Policy _21 April 2010.doc
<b>Family Input Consultation: 3/6/2010 Parent Policy Review Committee Published to website 4/6/2010</b>	Rachael West (4/2009) & Elise Dav (3/6/2010) Amanda Russell, P.Burns, Tamara Cracknell, Julie Kortholt, Kirsten Allen, J. Del maestro, Melanie Moxon, A.Volvrucht, Julie Paget, Amanda, Sarah Tofield,	<b>Team Member Input</b>	Bree Hall Emma Hedley Sharon Carrafa Lauren		
<b>Revision History</b>	Rev. 1 –01/2005 (Natalie Higgins) Rev. 2 – 01/2007 (Natalie Higgins) Change to make tooth brushing non compulsory (implemented when practicable) Rev. 3. – 4/2010 (Natalie Higgins) Change to include introduction of hard fruits such as apples after lunch.				

## Purpose & Rationale

Children who consume high sugar foods and drinks risk tooth decay. Around 50 per cent of all primary school children seen by the School Dental Service in Victoria have signs of dental decay (*Childcare and healthy eating*, n.d).

The oral health of Australian children is still of significant concern with 15 per cent of infants suffering dental decay. Dental health in children has improved in the last decade, however 50% of children aged 6 years still have caries. The most recent study of dental decay in young children indicated that approximately 84% of children aged 4 years enter their school years with clinically detectable untreated decay (*Healthy Teeth in Child Care* , n.d.). The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 1995 data found that only 23% of 2 to 4 year old children had visited a dentist in the previous two years (*Healthy Teeth in Child Care* , n.d.).

Risk factors associated with dental decay in preschool children can include, late starting of tooth brushing, low frequency of tooth brushing, frequent snacking, prolonged use of the feeding bottle, use of the dummy dipped in sweet substances, high/frequent sugar consumption and parental attitudes (*Healthy Teeth in Child Care* , n.d.).

## Policy Statement

Early intervention and education can prevent tooth decay and the various associated health risks with serious tooth decay. Hence, as an early childhood service we have a social obligation to assist families develop positive and tooth decay prevention strategies early in their children's lives.

To do this the service commits to:

- To provide appropriate dental information to families.
- To provide children with a developmentally appropriate program which highlights the importance of correct dental hygiene.
- A Dental Advisor is to be invited to talk to families and children yearly on dental hygiene and safety.
- Children will be encouraged to drink from cups and not bottles to help reduce decay producing sugars from contact with teeth.
- Dummies will not be dipped into any sweet substances.
- Children will be given water as the main drink to help prevent early childhood tooth decay.
- Children will be given nutritious snacks and those low in sugar.
- Staff will use planned and spontaneous programs to promote correct dental hygiene.
- Staff to receive training/updated information regarding dental hygiene.
- To provide hard fruit (eg. apples after lunch) and vegetables (eg. chopped veggie sticks often served at late snack) throughout the day to encourage the removal of calculus and tartar.

### Strategies to Support our Policy

### Links to Forms, Factsheets and Other Documentation which Support this Policy

[http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Childcare\\_and\\_healthy\\_eating](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Childcare_and_healthy_eating)

[http://www.rch.org.au/emplibrary/econnections/CCH\\_Vol7\\_No4\\_August2004.pdf](http://www.rch.org.au/emplibrary/econnections/CCH_Vol7_No4_August2004.pdf)

### Measuring Tools

Nil

## Links to other Policies

Promoting Health and Wellbeing

Sunsmart Policy

## QIAS Links

Principle 5.5, 7.1, 8.3 .

## Sources

“Childcare and healthy eating” (n.d) retrieved 23 April 2010 from  
[http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Childcare\\_and\\_healthy\\_eating](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Childcare_and_healthy_eating)

“Healthy Teeth in Child Care” (n.d.) retrieved 23 April 2010 from  
[http://www.rch.org.au/emplibrary/econnections/CCH\\_Vol7\\_No4\\_August2004.pdf](http://www.rch.org.au/emplibrary/econnections/CCH_Vol7_No4_August2004.pdf)

### Legislative Act:

Occupational Health & Safety Act (2004)