

Oral Health Policy Including Dummies

Aim

Children's health and wellbeing is of the utmost importance. Oral health is a key part of children's development and future health and wellbeing. This policy outlines our commitment to promoting oral health in the setting.

Procedures

All staff, students and volunteers will be made aware of the provisions of this policy during their induction, including the importance of them setting a positive example to children and families. All members of staff will actively promote key messages to parents / carers and families.

Food and snacks

- Snacks provided for children and staff will be tooth friendly.
- Any food containing sugar will be restricted to mealtimes only and will be provided on a limited basis.
- Lunches will be provided by school.
- Healthy snack will be provided by parents keeping within the settings healthy eating policy.

Drinks

- Milk and water will only be offered to children as drinks throughout the day.
- No fizzy drinks or juice will be served.

Rewards / Special Occasions

- Sweets and chocolate will not be used by staff as rewards for good behaviour and work.
- Sweets and chocolate may be provided to celebrate birthdays or special occasions.

Parents

- Parents will be asked to provide details of their child's dentist and doctor on enrolment.
- Parents will be encouraged to continue a regular brushing routine at home.
- Parents can access information and advice about tooth brushing and oral health from staff at preschool.

Children

- Oral health will be included in preschool work and learning opportunities.
- Oral health will feature as a theme at preschool e.g. dental corner, stories, songs, poems, activities etc.
- Good oral hygiene will be always encouraged.

Staff

- Staff are aware of the need to always promote good oral health.
- Appropriate training and information about relevant resources will be available to all staff.

Use of Dummies

At Cambo Wraparound we understand that a dummy can be a source of comfort to a child who is settling and/or upset.

We are also aware that overuse of dummies may affect a child's language development as it may restrict the mouth movements needed for speech.

Staff will:

- Discuss the use of dummies within an individual routine.
- Only suggest the use of dummies for comfort if a child is really upset.
- Immediately clean or sterilise any dummy that falls on the floor.
- Store in a sterilised place with no access for other children.

When trying to discourage a child using a Dummy the staff will:

- Show the child where the dummy is kept.
- Comfort the child and explain in a sensitive and age-appropriate manner why the dummy is not needed.
- Distract the child with other activities and ensure they are settled before moving away.
- Offer other methods of comfort such as a toy or a teddy.

As the child becomes older and forms a bond with setting staff, we will work with parents to support them in removing the dummy before the child goes to school. We will offer ideas based on our experiences with other families who have weaned their child off the dummy. It can be as simple as leaving the dummy for Santa or the Easter bunny and giving lots of praise to the child.

We understand the enormous struggle that some children have letting their biggest form of comfort go and we will work closely to follow parents/carers wishes in the way they decide to discontinue giving their child a dummy.