

## Brush Bus Procedure

This document is intended to guide staff to deliver a safe effective supervised toothbrushing programme (STB). It is intended that EYFS staff members deliver the scheme as laid out here rather than implementing their own systems.

### Background

The prevalence of tooth decay in the borough of Bury is high.

#### **Rationale for implementing daily supervised toothbrushing in EYFS**

As you are aware, Bury has wide in-borough oral health inequalities, with those living in more deprived areas are

- Less likely to brush their teeth twice daily
- Almost twice as likely to have decay and more likely to experience toothache
- **35%** of children are embarrassed about their teeth
- **6%** have had time off school
- **4%** of parents have had time off work to look after their children suffering with toothache

Tooth decay is almost entirely preventable and as EYFS Practitioners you can make a real difference. Good oral health really matters for our children.

#### In **2012** the results from the first ever dental health survey of **3 year olds** revealed:

- **18.4%** in Bury had already experienced decay in Bury  
In reality the tooth decay rate was likely to be **much higher** as only **8%** of **3 year olds** in the borough were examined

#### The **5 year old** dental health survey in **2015** revealed:

- **26.7%** of Bury children had been affected by tooth decay  
Although this was similar to the North West average, it was **significantly worse** than the national average

However, the 5 year old dental health survey in 2017 revealed;

- **35.2%** of Bury children had already been affected by tooth decay

Fluoride toothpaste is an effective method of reducing caries (dental decay) and its benefits can be maximized if brushing with toothpaste is started early in a child's life. Children aged 0-6years should be supervised brushing at least twice every day with family fluoride toothpaste.

Supervised toothbrushing in EYFS will help reduce inequalities and may also encourage children to brush their teeth from a young age. It also supports home brushing; many parents struggle to brush young children's teeth at home. Parents that have children in nurseries where brushing programmes have been implemented, report that their children are much more enthusiastic about having their teeth brushed at home and that it is now less of a struggle.

### **Service Specification**

#### Aim

Set up and maintain the Brush Bus tooth brushing scheme to pre-school and nursery childcare settings in order to increase exposure to fluoride among 2-5 year old children in Bury. This will be done by the Oral Health Promotion Team (OHPT) facilitating daily tooth brushing with family fluoride toothpaste at targeted establishments via staff training, guidance and support, advice to parents and the provision of equipment.

#### **All EYFS must complete the following easy free e-learning training.**

Encourage all members of your team to watch the following key training materials:

[Supervised Toothbrushing in Early Years and Educational Settings | GMTH \(gmthub.co.uk\)](http://gmthub.co.uk)

#### **All EYFS must follow COVID-19 guidance for supervised toothbrushing**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-supervised-toothbrushing-programmes/covid-19-guidance-for-supervised-toothbrushing-programmes-in-early-years-and-school-settings>

#### **OHPT staff responsibilities:**

- Provide details where e-learning training for all EYFS staff members can be obtained. This is intended to guide EYFS practitioners to enable them to deliver a safe effective STB programme
- Provision of equipment to support the programme
- Toothpaste storage racks comply with the best practice in prevention of cross-infection

- Parents/carers to receive an information leaflet/consent form to enable them to make an informed choice. Parental/carers consent must be obtained before brushing commences
- Each establishment to receive the guidelines for implementation and staff to check they are being followed
- Monitoring of the tooth brushing programme will take place at timely intervals. This may involve a telephone call or email to obtain feedback
- All the above recorded by the Oral Health Promotion Team for each EYFS

#### **Child care staff responsibilities:**

- Staff involved with daily toothbrushing must complete e-learning training
- Have identified a STB (supervised toothbrushing) Lead
- Commitment to the programme, providing supervised toothbrushing on a daily basis following guidelines
- Have a consenting procedure in place; all signed consent forms should be retained in the setting
- Cross infection procedures are followed including social distancing
- Follow COVID-19 guidance for STB
- **Suspend** the programme temporarily if there is an outbreak of any infectious illnesses until it is resolved
- Ensure children use individual brushes
- To check equipment on a weekly basis and ensure the right equipment is being used. Use the toothpaste provided or a toothpaste with a fluoride concentration of 1450ppm (family fluoride toothpaste)
- To ensure 'S' toothbrush storage racks are stored carefully and looked after for continued use
- To contact Oral Health Promotion Team for any queries

Toothbrush storage racks are **on loan only** to settings whilst they are committed to delivering daily toothbrushing. They remain the property of the OHP Team Bury. **The toothbrush storage racks are expensive to replace and settings will be required to cover the cost to replace them if they are discarded/thrown away**

#### **Opting out of the programme**

If at any time the decision is made to opt out of the Brush Bus programme (STB) please contact the Oral health promotion team. Arrangements can be made to collect any surplus stock and the brushing racks.

Contact details;

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