

## **Early Years setting: Supervised Toothbrushing Programme Risk Assessment**

### **Potential Hazards whilst preparing to implement tooth brushing**

- If not under close supervision, children may not wash and sanitise their hands thoroughly.
- Children picking up the incorrect toothbrush by mistake.
- Toothbrushes can touch if the children are too close together.
- Supervisor may not cover all cuts, breaks and abrasions in their skin with a waterproof dressing before commencing.
- Toothpaste may spill whilst the supervisor is dispensing onto individual paper towels, tissue paper etc.

### **Managing risks whilst preparing to implement tooth brushing**

- Supervisors and children (under supervision) should wash their hands or use hand sanitiser before and after the toothbrushing session.
- Supervisors should cover any cuts, abrasions or breaks in their skin with a waterproof dressing before commencing.
- Supervisors should dispense the toothpaste onto a clean surface such as a plate, individual paper towel or tissue square to allow each child to apply the toothpaste to their brush.
- Each child should collect their toothpaste, a tissue or paper towel (so they can spit any excess toothpaste into this after brushing), and their toothbrush from the storage system.
- Each toothbrush should be individually identifiable enabling each child to recognise their own brush.

### **Potential hazards whilst children are brushing their teeth**

- Toothpaste may spill over the paper towel, tissue paper when children are dispensing the excess toothpaste.
- Toothbrushes or paper towels etc. may touch if children are sitting or standing too close together.
- Toothbrushes may drop on the floor.

### **Managing hazards whilst children are brushing their teeth**

- Children must carry out tooth brushing where the surrounding area is easy to clean.
- Children may stand or sit while toothbrushing however consider the space between them to limit cross contamination.
- Toothbrushes which fall on the floor are to be discarded in normal refuse.
- After brushing children can spit excess toothpaste into the tissue or paper towel (encourage children to raise the tissue to their mouths to do so) and wipe their mouths. Tissue or paper towel and toothpaste paper should be disposed of immediately in a waste bag.

### **Cleaning and storing toothbrushes**

- After toothbrushing supervisors should clean the area where the toothbrushing has taken place with detergents and bleach.
- Observed by the supervisor each child should in turn rinse their own toothbrush and its handle at a sink under cold running water.
- Toothbrushes should be rinsed straight away.
- The toothpaste should not be allowed to dry on the brush and water should be left running to avoid each child touching the tap.
- Toothbrushes should not come into contact with the sink or tap.
- Toothbrushes must not be washed together in the sink.
- Under supervision each child then returns their own toothbrush to the storage system to air dry.
- Storage system lids should be replaced at this stage if there is enough air circulation to allow the toothbrushes to dry before next use.
- After toothbrushing supervisors are responsible for cleaning sinks and surfaces following national guidance and using standard cleaning products such as detergents and bleach.
- Each toothbrush should always be replaced into the same hole in their storage system following toothbrushing.
- After toothbrushing is complete children and supervisors should wash their hands.

Guidance on implementing the tooth brushing scheme under the new COVID-19 regulations is available [here](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-supervised-toothbrushing-programmes>

You may wish to record your risk assessment using a template as shown below:



