

Tooth Brushing Procedure

Policy: Each center will have a daily supervised tooth brushing activity that models and teaches good dental hygiene and prevents cross-contamination between children, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

Performance Standard 1304.23(b)(3)

Procedure:

Sanitation/Storage

- Each child will have her/his own labeled toothbrush and brushes will be stored upright in holder with a labeled cap on them.
- Sanitation/Storage: Each toothbrush holder will be sanitized at least bi-weekly.
- Each classroom will be provided with new toothbrushes three times a school year; the beginning of the year, after winter break, and after spring break.
- The sink area must be sanitized before and after tooth brushing activities.

Tooth brushing

- Children should brush their teeth at least once during the school day after a meal.
- Group tooth brushing must be supervised by staff and/or volunteers who have been trained to monitor for activities that could result in cross contamination (spitting, playing with toothbrushes, etc.). Children should never perform tooth brushing without adequate supervision.
- To prevent cross-contamination of the toothpaste tube, ensure that a smear of toothpaste is always dispensed onto the child's cup or wax paper or foil. **** (Do Not Use Toothpaste Tube to Dispense Toothpaste to the Brushes)**
- Each child picks up only his or her own toothbrush.
- Children do not have the opportunity to spit into or near other children's toothbrushes.
- Classroom staff will insure that toothbrushes are rinsed and stored properly after use.