

Classroom Toothbrushing and Program Instructions in Oral Health



Link to Website for Program Instruction in Oral Health

- <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/HeadStart/index.html>
- Other helpful information will also be found at this site



“Beginning February 2007, the Office of Head Start (OHS) will monitor compliance with 45 CFR 1304.23 (b) (3) by reference to the following minimum requirements...”



OFFICE OF HEAD START

Toothbrushing for children age two and over

“Once daily, after a meal, Head Start staff (or volunteers, if available) should assist children in brushing their teeth using a small smear of toothpaste that contains fluoride”



Toothbrushing..

Are some children reluctant?



- Others rush through it carelessly?

Make it a group activity...for
learning, fun..
and better oral health



Advantages

- A calm systematic way to teach oral hygiene and accomplish daily requirements
- Children see their teacher brushing – role modeling
- Enables monitoring the amount of time each child brushes
- Sitting at the child's level allows for better observation of brushing techniques, than standing by a sink

Using an egg timer allows children to learn how long they should be brushing and monitor their progress



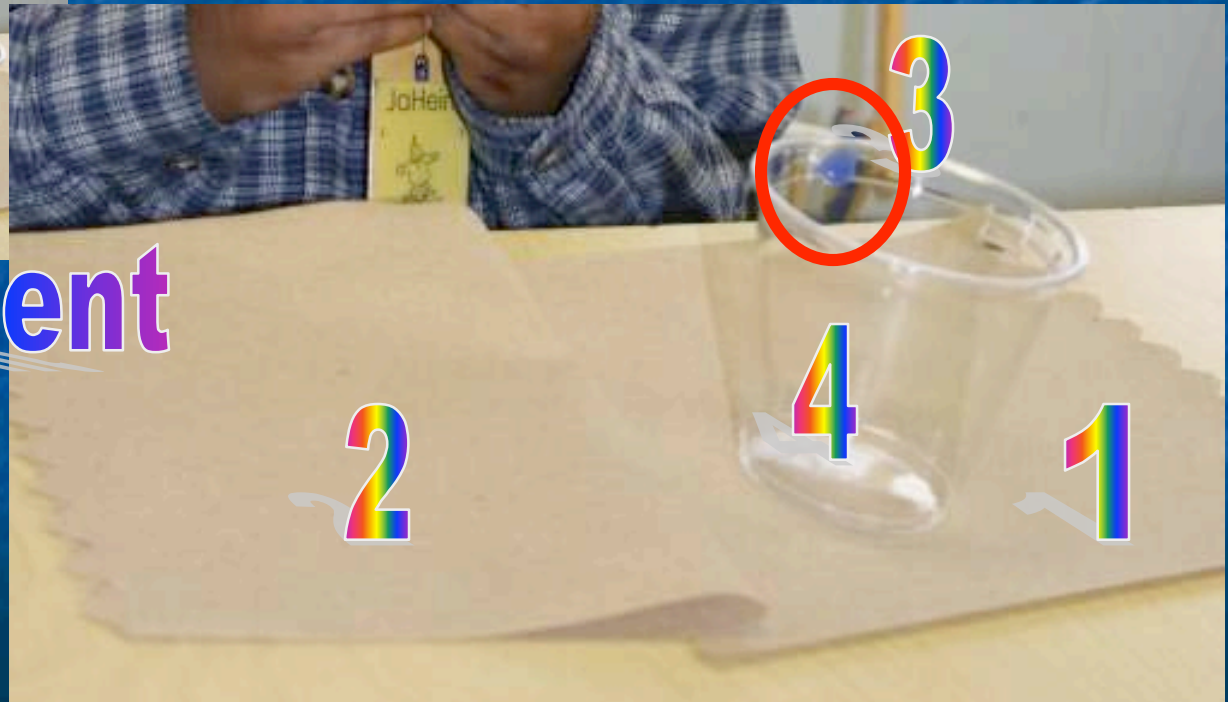
When to brush?

- Once daily
- After the meal





- 1 & 2 - paper towels (table cloth & napkin)
 - 3 - A smear; Less than pea size toothpaste on cup rim
 - 4 - Cup for spitting
- Note: no water in the cup

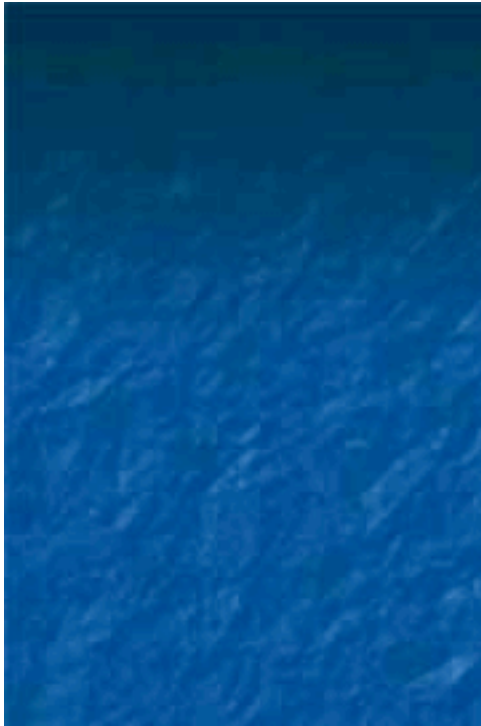


The equipment

1. Toothpaste with fluoride
2. Less than pea size...
3. Put it on the rim.....

The toothpaste tube does not touch any toothbrushes – no germs are shared





Toothbrushing is role modeled,
monitored for cleaning all
parts of the mouth and using
adequate time



Brush, brush, brush
Scrubbing is fine. Don't expect circles at
this age





- Spitting (to avoid swallowing toothpaste) is role modeled and monitored
- No rinsing is needed



- Use the napkin

- Put the napkin in the cup to absorb liquid
- ..and dispose of the paper and cup



- Rinse the brush



- Stow the brush for drying



Many Methods of Toothbrush Storage: separation and drying are essential





- No toothbrush covers needed
- Ventilation holes
- Spacious compartments for drying
- Wash drawers in a dishwasher
- prevdentsp@aol.com \$24.99

**A system
to consider**



- One child at a time is more time consuming
- Uses water; toothpaste more likely to be swallowed

- Not role modeled
- Varied amounts of brushing time
- Technique may not be as closely monitored



For children between one and two years of age

- Once daily, after a meal, Head Start staff (or volunteers, if available) must brush children's teeth with a soft bristled toothbrush, using a small smear of toothpaste that contains fluoride



Toothbrush adaptations for 1-2 year old children

Enables the child to
begin learning how
to brush



Dispensing toothpaste for 1-2 year old children

Avoid spreading germs

- Dispense toothpaste onto a tongue blade, and wipe it onto the brush or
- Use individual small tubes of toothpaste

For infants under the age of one

“At least once during the program day, staff or volunteers must wash their hands and then cover a finger with a gauze pad or soft cloth and gently wipe infants’ gums”



Should gloves be worn while brushing 1-2 year old children's teeth or wiping infant's gums?



- Gloves are not usually required, but wash hands before and after brushing each child's teeth or wiping gums.
- If gloves are worn, be alert to possible latex allergies; wear latex free gloves

Assuring Dental Care

With 90 days of entry into the program

- Determine....does the child have a dental home?
- Up to date with EPSDT dental schedule?
- If not, assist parents to bring up to date
- If up to date assure continuity
- Track health care services provided
- Obtain or arrange testing, examination and/or treatment by appropriate professional for observable, known, or suspected health or developmental problem
- Programs are allowed more than 90 days to complete needed treatment



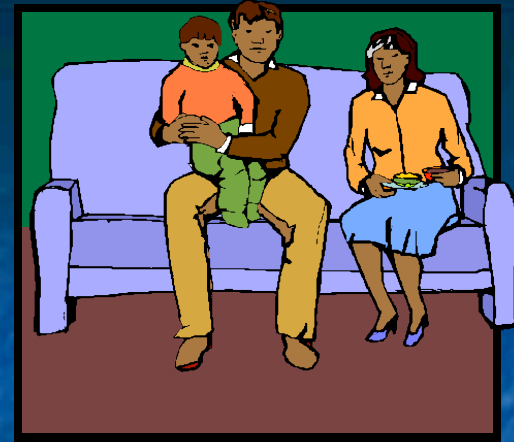
Note: EPSDT is Medicaid's determination of requirements for Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment

Determining Compliance

Head Start staff or consultants who have training and experience in a health profession and EPSDT schedules determine if performance standards and program instructions have been fulfilled



Helping Parents Whose Children Are Not Up-To-Date



Includes, but not limited to:

- Education about importance of care
- Identify dentists who accept Medicaid or provide free/low-cost services
- Arrange transportation to dental office
- Provide transportation (with written consent)
- Bring dentist or mobile clinic to Head Start

Who are appropriate dental professionals for examination and treatment ?



- All states, except Minnesota, require that a dentist provides examination and provides or supervises treatment
- Minnesota allows collaborative practice dental hygienists to provide assessment, triage and referral to fulfill EPSDT dental examination requirements
- Dental screening by a non-dentist is not required and does not fulfill the examination requirement

Dental Provider Shortages?

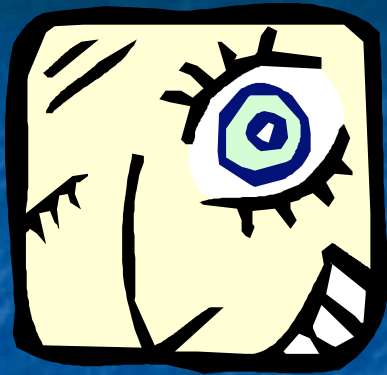
A limited solution for providing dental examinations:

- Local dentists may provide examination at the Head Start site
- A mobile dental clinic may be engaged to provide examinations/ treatment on site



The Goal – A Dental Home

A source of continuous, accessible, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective oral health care delivered or directed by a professional dentist



For Children with a Dental Home

- Head Start grantees must ensure that the child continues to follow the recommended schedule of well child care as required by 1304.20 (a)(1)ii)(B)
- All Head Start staff should be alert to emerging need for dental care for children with or without a dental home

Access to Medicaid

- Help parents enroll their children in Medical to enable payment for dental AND medical services
- Know your State's eligibility criteria, service coverage, and provider reimbursement practices
- <http://64.82.65.67/medicaid/states.html>





....And Who Pays ?

Head Start may pay for dental services if:

- The child is not covered by Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- There are no dentists available who accept Medicaid/SCHIP
- Must document efforts to find other funding

Children **NEED** Oral Health For....

- Freedom from pain and infection
- Ability to study and learn
- Normal facial development
- Ability to eat nourishing food
- Self esteem

Achieving the Goal !



“You’re not healthy without good oral health”



**Dr. C. Everett Koop,
Surgeon General of the United States, 1981-1989**



Thank you!

Acknowledgements to:

- Community Action of Northeast Indiana, Salvation Army Head Start Site in Fort Wayne for allowing children (with parental permission) to be photographed
- University of Iowa's DVD "Modified Toothbrushing Protocol" for group brushing concepts