

# Dental Intervention Procedure

## Purpose

This document tells site teams how to work with families to obtain a dental exam for every child.

## Guidance

Dental disease is infectious, yet preventable and treatable. It is caused by acid producing bacteria and can affect the general health of children. Poor oral health in children can lead to:

- Poor appetite and growth
- Impaired speech development
- Poor concentration due to chronic pain
- Increased absences due to illness

A well balanced diet and healthy food choices help keep teeth healthy. Fluoride and good dental hygiene protect health, teeth and mouth. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the first dental visit should be when the first tooth comes in, then every 6 months after.

## Procedure

If a child has no history of dental problems after an exam and is on a regular dental schedule, provide parents with information about preventive oral health care. (see Health, Nutrition & Safety Resource Hub)

### **If a child has one or more dental cavities, is without a source of fluoride or has never had a dental exam**

- Child has been diagnosed with dental cavities or concerns via well child exam or dental exam report
  - Parent identifies dental concerns verbally or through Health and Developmental History
  - Child identifies pain or dental problems
  - Staff observes potential dental concerns
1. List dental as an issue or concern in the Partnership Summary.
  2. Follow up with parent monthly to be sure necessary treatment is occurring.
  3. Provide resources to parents of children without a source of fluoride.
  4. Discuss proper modeling techniques with parent/guardian.
  5. Document all conversations with parents, classroom activities and information provided around dental concerns and fluoride

## Resources

Bright futures oral health

<http://www.brightfutures.org/>

American Academy of Pediatrics Dental (printable brochures on snacking and fluoride)

<http://www.aapd.org/publications/brochures/>

Seattle and King County Public Health Department

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/personal/OralHealth.aspx>

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CDC [http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/publications/factsheets/childrens\\_oral\\_health/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/publications/factsheets/childrens_oral_health/index.htm)

Brush up on health teeth poster:

<http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/pdfs/BrushUpTips.pdf>

Tacoma and Pierce County Public Health Department

<http://www.tpchd.org/index.php>

Low cost dental resource guide

<http://www.tpchd.org/files/library/c8af145518c5fbc4.pdf>

ABCD

<http://www.tpchd.org/files/library/47c5bf039b7b60ac.pdf>