

## Tooth Brushing and Feeder Cups Policy

As part of the 'we are tooth health' programme we have a designated lead person who is responsible for the tooth brushing programme.

### **Tooth Healthy Officer –** .....

All staff involved in the tooth brushing will be given sufficient training on the tooth brushing programme by the Senior Health Improvement Workers.

Staff will ensure all children have a signed parental consent form before they are able to begin the tooth brushing programme. Every child will be given the opportunity to brush their teeth daily whilst at nursery, usually after lunchtime.

- Every child will be allocated their own named bag, toothbrush and toothpaste which will be for their sole use only.
- The practitioner is responsible for distributing and applying the toothpaste to the child's toothbrush to ensure the correct amount of toothpaste is used.
- The fluoride toothpaste used in the programme will contain at least 1350 ppm (ppm) fluoride – or 1500 ppm in the Jewish community (Zohar toothpaste).
- Children under three years old use a smear of fluoride toothpaste and children over three years use a pea-sized amount.
- All children must be supervised when brushing their teeth ensuring all surfaces are brushed in a circular motion for two minutes.
- Children should be discouraged from swallowing excess toothpaste and encouraged to spit out any excess toothpaste but not rinse as rinsing after brushing significantly decreases the benefits of fluoride protection.
- After tooth brushing, children should rinse their own brushes under cold running water and dry with a paper towel under practitioner supervision. Toothbrushes should not be soaked or washed in any cleaning products.
- Toothbrushes should then be placed in the child's individual bag and stored as per infection prevention guidance. Each session will be recorded.
- Practitioners are responsible for ensuring the sinks and surrounding areas are kept clean using detergent and a single use cloth.
- Free flow feeder cups will be used for all babies over six months old