

# THE GOWRIE (QLD) INC DENTAL HEALTH POLICY

## CONSIDERATIONS:

QIA	Principle 6.3
REGS	Child Care Regulation 2003 Part 2 Division 7 Child Care Act 2002 Part 4 Division 1 Section 76

## POLICY STATEMENT:

To support preventative dental health practices by encouraging children to understand and practice good dental care and provide information for families on Oral Health.

## RELEVANT FORMS/MATERIAL:

## SOURCES:

- Health Insite *Dental Health for Children* [www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Dental-Health-for-Children](http://www.healthinsite.gov.au/topics/Dental-Health-for-Children)
- Colgate Australia Oral Health Service – Oral Health for Children  
<http://www.colgate.com/app/Colgate/US/OC/Information/OralHealthAtAnyAge/InfantsAndChildren.cvsp>

**REVIEWED: October 2010**

**Date to Be Reviewed: October 2011**

IMPLEMENTATION:	
<p>WHAT YOU SHOULD DO</p>	<p><b>ENCOURAGE THE CONSUMPTION AND USE OF WATER:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage children to rinse their mouths after meals. Tooth brushing programs are able to be implemented dependent upon the individual Service. Hygienic practices relative to this program are to be documented to ensure no cross contamination and all staff are aware of procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>ENCOURAGE FOODS THAT CLEAN THE MOUTH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The consumption of dairy products such as milk, cheese and yoghurt increase the level of calcium in the saliva, thus protecting the teeth.</li> <li>- Limit starchy or sugary foods, which produce plaque acids that cause tooth decay.</li> </ul> <p><b>POSITIVE DENTAL CARE PRACTICES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that all children who drink from a bottle finish their drink before resting or being put down to sleep.</li> </ul> <p><i>The prolonged contact of fluids such as juice, cordials and to a lesser extent milk with the teeth will increase the risk of dental caries (decay). The top teeth are usually the most affected, the bottom teeth being protected during non-sucking times by saliva.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Offer <b>water</b> in preference to fruit juice.</li> <li>- Offer diluted fruit juice rather than full strength juice</li> <li>- Offer fruit rather than fruit juice</li> </ul> <p><b>FAMILY INFORMATION:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide and discuss with families current information and brochures that promote good oral hygiene and health.</li> <li>- Seek to provide children with information on healthy food and drink choices in relation to Dental Care.</li> </ul>
<p>NEVER</p>	<p>Offer cordial as a drink.</p>
<p>WHEN A TOOTH IS KNOCKED OUT</p>	
<p>WHAT YOU SHOULD DO</p>	<p><b>WHEN A TOOTH IS KNOCKED OUT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find the tooth</li> <li>• Handle the tooth by the crown (top), not the root</li> <li>• If the tooth is dirty, rinse in milk or owner's saliva only – DO NOT SCRUB THE TOOTH OR USE WATER OR OTHER CLEANING AGENTS</li> <li>• Immediately replace the tooth in its socket if possible</li> <li>• If not possible to replace – wrap tooth in plastic wrap or store in milk only</li> <li>• DO NOT STORE IN WATER</li> <li>• Notify Parents to collect child and seek dental help immediately.</li> </ul>

