

Tooth Brushing Policy and Procedure

Performance Standard: 1302.43

Children at DACHS brush their teeth after breakfast and lunch with assistance from an adult. Proper toothbrushing methods will be gone over in class.

Procedure:

1. Staff and children wash their hands before brushing teeth and the adult wears disposable gloves.
2. Each child has their own toothbrush and toothpaste, both labeled with his/her name.
3. To avoid spreading germs from the toothbrush to toothpaste, adults will smear a dab of toothpaste on the rim of each child's paper rinsing cup.
4. Children's teeth will be brushed in a circular motion, making sure that the inner side of teeth and near the gum line is brushed. When the child is finished brushing his/her teeth, have them rinse by filling the paper cup with a very small amount of water. Adults will discourage the swallowing of water.
5. Children will be assisted until they have mastered the technique.
6. Teachers model the importance of tooth brushing by brushing their teeth at the same time as the children.
7. Toothbrushes will be stored so there is no cross contamination.
8. Once every 2 weeks toothbrushes will be washed in a dishwasher.
9. Toothbrushes will be replaced every 3-4 months or when there are visible signs of wear.