

NEIGHBORIMPACT HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

Policy & Procedure

Section: Subpart D-Health Program Services	PC Approval Date: 9/6/2005, 1/18/2018
Title: Oral Health Practices	Updated: 11/03/2017 Added EHS
Policy #: HS-63	NI Board Approval: 9/12/19
Forms Required: Lesson Plan	
Performance Standards: 1302.43, CFOB: 3.151	Page 1 of 1

Policy: Staff will participate in the promotion of effective dental hygiene among children.

Purpose: To educate children and their parents about effective ways to prevent dental caries through supervision, coaching and modeling appropriate technique in the classroom.

Procedure:

- A. Tooth brushing is to be done daily in all NeighborImpact Head Start Classes Classroom staff brush their teeth with the children for supervising, coaching and modeling appropriate technique. Tooth brushing is documented on the classroom lesson plan.
- B. Classroom staff will wash hands before and after tooth brushing.
- C. All brushes must be labeled with the child's name.
- D. Following each use, toothbrushes should be rinsed in tap water, stored in an upright position and allowed to air dry. Toothbrushes should not touch each one another or drip on one another. If a toothbrush has been contaminated or used by another child, it should be discarded.
- E. Staff puts a small pea size drop of fluoride toothpaste onto the rim of a paper cup for each child. Staff place a napkin, the child's toothbrush, and the paper cup with toothpaste at each child's place at the table. The toothpaste tube must never come in contact with the brushes.
- F. Children should use the horizontal scrub technique while seated at the table. Classroom staff will encourage children to brush all three sides of their teeth-the outsides, insides and chewing surfaces. Classroom staff may walk around the classroom during tooth brushing time or sit at the table with the children, coaching the kids and brushing their own teeth so children can model their behavior. Children will be allowed to brush their teeth for 2 minutes.
- G. Children should be allowed to spit out excess toothpaste after brushing, but rinsing should not take place. It is okay if a child swallows the excess toothpaste that is left in their mouths. Children should not eat or drink anything for 30 minutes after tooth brushing.
- H. Children wipe their faces with their napkin to clean off any toothpaste, then place the napkin in the paper cup and place into the wastebasket.
- I. Children should wash their hands after tooth brushing.
- J. The toothbrushes need to be replaced when worn. If a child has been ill, his/her brush should be replaced. All brushes should be replaced monthly.
- K. Early Head Start will promote oral hygiene through parent education and with Community Partners who will attend socializations.