
Subject: Dental Emergency First Aid

Source: Early Head Start Performance Standard 1304.22 (a) (1)

Policy

Grantee must establish and implement policies and procedures to respond to medical and dental health emergencies with which all staff are familiar and trained.

Procedure

In the event of an accident to the tongue, lips, cheeks, or teeth:

Staff should first attempt to calm the child.

All accidents should be handled quietly and calmly; a panicked child is likely to create problems for treatment and may cause further trauma.

Check for bleeding. If the child is bleeding:

- a. Stop the bleeding by applying pressure to the area;
- b. Wash the affected area with clean water;
- c. Apply ice wrapped in a clean cloth, or a cold compress to control swelling.

If a tooth is knocked out, fractured, chipped, broken, or loose:

- a. If the injured area is dirty, clean gently;
- b. Place cold compresses on the face, in the injured area, to limit swelling;
- c. Accident Report will be completed by staff present at the time of the incident.
- d. Center Director will notify the child's Parent / Legal Guardian regarding the incident.
- e. Child should be taken to the dentist immediately for treatment.

If teeth are loosened in an accident:

- a. Rinse out the child's mouth;
- b. Do not attempt to move the jaw or teeth;
- c. Accident Report will be completed by staff present at the time of the incident.
- d. Center Director will notify the child's Parent / Legal Guardian regarding the incident.
- e. Child should be taken to the dentist immediately for treatment.

If a tooth is knocked into the gums:

- a. Do not attempt to free or pull on the tooth;
- b. Staff will rinse out the child's mouth;
- c. Accident Report will be completed by staff present at the time of the incident.
- d. Center Director will notify the child's Parent / Legal Guardian regarding the incident.
- e. Child should be taken to the dentist immediately for treatment.

If injury to the tongue, cheeks, or lips occurs:

- a. Rinse affected area;
- b. Apply ice, wrapped in clean cloth, to control swelling;
- c. Accident Report will be completed by staff present at the time of the incident.
- d. Center Director will notify the child's Parent / Legal Guardian regarding the incident.
- e. Child should be taken to the dentist or physician if bleeding continues or if the wound is large.