**Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Oral Health.** Providers must promote the good health, including the oral health, of children attending the setting.

**10.17 Tooth Brushing and promoting Oral Health**  ****

**Policy statement**

From September 1st, 2021, the new EYFS will come into effect, all providers must actively promote good oral health and support families to achieve this within their homes. A study by Public Health England in 2017 found that almost a quarter of children starting school aged 5 had tooth decay and research from NICE suggested that child who brush their teeth every day in an Early Years environment for a 2-year period was an effective way to prevent tooth decay.

This Policy will outline how Barby Preschool we support good oral health with their setting.

In the same way Barby Preschool promotes healthy eating, potty training, and mental well-being Barby will:

* Ensure Oral Health is planned using child friendly activities and resources
* Seek to invite local dentist into the setting to talk to children/families about the importance of good hygiene and how they can encourage/promote this in their homes
* Reduce sugar in take within the setting, parents will be asked not to provide juice in their child’s drink bottles and to ensure snacks are healthy and balanced in line with the EYFS requirements
* To ensure milk or equivalent is available for all children in the setting in line with the Department of Education ‘Milk Scheme’
* To introduce tooth brushing during the day to encourage, demonstrate and promote good and regular toothbrushing building the foundations for good hygiene practices in later life.

**Tooth Brushing Policy and infection prevention and control measures**

1. Each child must have a completed consent form and allergy information checked before start of the activity
2. Each child will have their own labelled toothbrush
3. Toothbrushes will be kept in a child’s own names wash bag that must be stored in a clean dry area and kept out of the reach of children when not in use.
4. An allocated leader/supervisor must monitor the hygiene of brushes as described below: - After the children finish brushing, the supervisor must ensure that they rinse their toothbrushes thoroughly with running water and shake off excess water into the sink, then place it back in the rack to air-dry
* It is important to keep the rack clean and dry paying special attention after the toothbrushes have been placed back in the rack. If the rack becomes soiled, it must be washed in hot water with soap, then rinsed and dried
* - The rack must be washed in this way at least once every week. To prevent contamination of the toothpaste tube, the supervisor must always dispense a smear or pea-sized amount (dependant on age) of toothpaste (one for each child) onto a plate.

- Each child can then take a turn in using their toothbrush to take the paste off of the Plate.

- Ensure there is sufficient spacing between the quantities of dispensed toothpaste to allow collection without cross-contamination.

1. Tooth brushing must be closely supervised by staff that has been trained to monitor the activity.
2. For health and safety, the numbers of children brushing at any one time must be limited to groups small enough to ensure effective supervision.
3. Children should not rinse with water after brushing their teeth but only spit out the excess toothpaste.
4. Sink areas must be cleaned with detergent wipes before and after tooth brushing activities.
5. A leader/supervisor must ensure that toothbrushes are replaced every 3 months or when bristles are damaged.
6. Child will not be made to join in but encouraged using our positive behaviour system
7. Staff will not brush children’s teeth for them, if a child is struggling a member of staff will use role play or actions to demonstrate how to correctly brush, staff will speak to parents about their oral health routine at home to see how we can support the child in the setting.
8. Tooth brushing will take part 30 mins after a child has eaten their lunch to ensure that a child’s enamel is protected

**Cleaning the Toothbrush/Bags and Racks**

1. Appropriate cleaning procedures must be in place to ensure that cross- infection risks are minimized.
2. Ensure all cuts, abrasions and breaks in the skin are covered with a waterproof dressing before tooth brushing and cleaning is carried out.
3. Single use disposable household or vinyl gloves are worn when cleaning storage racks and sinks.
4. Storage racks, trolleys and storage areas are cleaned, rinsed, and dried at least once a week (more if soiled). Use warm water and household detergent as this removes the vast majority of relevant surface dirt, hard surface detergent wipes can also be used.
5. Care must be taken to ensure that toothbrushes do not cross-contaminate through touch when being removed from, or replaced in, storage racks and must be discarded if this occurs.
6. Any toothbrushes dropped on to the floor must be discarded in hazard waste disposal unit
7. Toothbrushes are not to be soaked in Milton or other cleaner/disinfectant.

Legal Framework/ Guidance Reference

This Protocol has been developed with reference to:

* Statutory framework for the Early Years foundation stage, Setting the standards for learning, development, and care for children from birth to five
* NHS - Daily supervised brushing in early years and nursery school settings <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ltphimenu/better-care-for-health-conditions-for-dental-healthcare/daily-supervised-brushing-in-early-years-and-nursery-school-settings/>

This policy was adopted by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Barby Preschool)

On \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Date to be reviewed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Signed on behalf of the

provider \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of signatory \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Role of signatory \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date emailed to parents ­ ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_