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Bright Futures

Bright Futures in Practice: Oral Health—Pocket Guide



National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

This guide is designed to help health professionals implement specific oral health guidelines during pregnancy and postpartum, infancy, early childhood, middle childhood, and adolescence.

- [View the guide online](#)
- [Download the guide](#)

Bright Futures Health Supervision Guidelines, 3rd edition

American Academy of Pediatrics

The guidelines provide child health promotion information and guidance for health professionals, from pediatricians to public health officials to school nurses.

- [Oral Health](#)

Education and Training

see also [Head Start Oral Health Curricula at-a-Glance](#)

A Health Professional's Guide to Pediatric Oral Health Management

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

This curriculum provides information on performing oral screenings to identify infants and children at increased risk for oral health problems, offering referrals to oral health professionals, and providing parents with anticipatory guidance.



Dental Health Screening and Fluoride Varnish Application

University of Minnesota

This course covers the etiology and prevention of tooth decay, strategies for prevention, oral health screening and examination, the fluoride varnish application procedure, and the billing process.



Fluoride Varnish Application Video

MO Healthy Smiles

This 4-minute video shows the supplies and process involved in fluoride varnish application.

Health and Safety in the Child Care Setting: Promoting Children's Oral Health—A Curriculum for Health Professionals and Child Care Providers

California Childcare Health Program

This curriculum is written for health professionals and child care providers in California to promote oral health for infants and young children. Lessons address oral development, oral habits, health and oral hygiene, fluoridation, diet and nutrition, and injury prevention and care.

Open Wide: Oral Health Training for Health Professionals

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

This series of four modules is designed to help health and early childhood professionals (for example, Head Start and WIC staff) working in community settings promote oral health, with information about tooth decay, risk factors, prevention, and anticipatory guidance to share with parents.

**Oral Health Risk Assessment: Training for Pediatricians and Other Child Health Professionals**

American Academy of Pediatrics

This continuing education activity for pediatricians and other primary care health professionals provides an overview of how to conduct an oral health risk assessment and triage for infants and young children. Continuing medical education credit is available.

Partners in Prevention: Getting a Head Start on Oral Health—An Infant/Toddler Oral Health Continuing Education Course

New York University, College of Dentistry, Department of Pediatric Dentistry; New York Head Start Association

This continuing education course is designed for Head Start staff. Topics include prenatal care, pregnancy and oral health; oral pathology of the infant and young child; oral manifestation of systemic disease, tooth formation, eruption, and teething; nutritive and non-nutritive sucking; acquisition of the oral flora; oral hygiene and preventing early childhood caries; fluoride benefits; diet and nutrition; oral facial trauma and child abuse; simple rules for good oral health; and a summary of anticipatory guidance.

Planning Guide for Dental Professionals Serving Children with Special Health Care Needs

University of Southern California University Affiliated Program, Children's Hospital Los Angeles

This guide promotes a framework within which oral health professionals can communicate and work with families to ensure that appropriate, high-quality oral health care is provided both at home and in the dental office.

Practical Oral Care for People with Developmental Disabilities: Making a Difference

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research

This series of publications is designed to equip oral health professionals with information on delivering high-quality oral health care to people with special health care needs. Strategies for care covering topics such as mobility, neuromuscular and behavioral problems, sensory impairment, and other treatment considerations are discussed in the context of the general dental office setting.

Special Care: An Oral Health Professional's Guide to Serving Young Children with Special Health Care Needs

National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center

This continuing education (CE) course provides oral health professionals with information to ensure that young children with special health care needs have access to health-promotion and disease-prevention services that address their unique oral health needs in a comprehensive, family-centered, and community-based manner. Four CE credits through the Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service or through the American Dental Hygienists' Association will be awarded upon successful completion of the course.

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Screening/Risk Assessment

Guidelines for Oral Health Screening in Ohio's Schools

Ohio Department of Health, Oral Health Section

These guidelines guide school nurses in conducting oral screenings for students. Topics covered include which grades should participate, preparation for screening, infection control, disposal procedure, screening setup and technique, confidentiality, and documenting oral observations.

Oral Conditions in Children with Special Needs: A Guide for Health Care Providers

California Connections Project

This guide provides full-color photographs of oral conditions, each accompanied by descriptive text and a recommendation for health professionals who encounter the condition. Conditions include tooth eruption, malocclusion, tooth anomalies, developmental defects, viral infections, gingival infections, dental caries, oral trauma, bruxism (tooth grinding), and gingival overgrowth resulting from medications.

Oral Health Risk Assessment Timing and Establishment of the Dental Home

American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Pediatric Dentistry

This policy statement focuses on guidelines for the identification of pregnant women and children at high risk for dental caries.

Pediatric Office Guide to Oral Health Care

Seattle Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center

This guide helps primary care physicians check for early childhood caries. Topics include toothbrushing, toothpaste, healthy food choices, fluoride, and helping physicians talk with parents about oral health. Pictures illustrate what to look for during visual inspection, and descriptions of the appearance of mild, moderate, and severe tooth decay are included.

Pediatric Oral Health Guide for the Primary Care Provider

Whatcom County (Wash.) Health and Human Services

This guide offers primary care health professionals information on oral health issues, education, assessment, and referral for infants and young children, including assessment of all children by age 1 for dental caries risk; fluoride supplements, toothpaste, and fluoride varnish; and tips for parents.

Guideline on Caries-risk Assessment and Management for Infants, Children, and Adolescents

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

This guideline is intended to educate healthcare providers and others on the assessment of caries risk in contemporary pediatric dentistry and aid in clinical decision making regarding diagnostic, fluoride, dietary, and restorative protocols.

Professionally Applied Topical Fluoride: Decision-Support Tool

Council on Scientific Affairs, American Dental Association

A full-color decision-support tool based on scientific evidence.

Topical Fluoride Recommendations for High-Risk Children: Development of Decision Support Matrix

Altarum Institute

This matrix summarizes recommendations from an expert panel convened in 2007 to develop a decision-making tool for primarily non-oral-health-professional audiences on the use of topical fluoride in preventing and controlling dental caries in young children at high risk for dental caries.

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Anticipatory Guidance Tools

Age Appropriate Anticipatory Guidance

First5 Oral Health

This tool provides guidance on the developmental stages: prenatal, birth to age 1, ages 1–2, and ages 3–5.



The Dental Home: It's Never Too Early to Start

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Foundation

This tool addresses the concept of the dental home and how parents and oral health professionals can make a difference, and it provides recommendations for professionals and key messages to share with parents.

Healthy Teeth Begin at Birth

First5 Oral Health

This tool explains the importance of "baby teeth" and how early oral health care should begin. Tips are provided for parents about oral health care before and after teeth appear, the importance of visiting the dentist before age 1, and the roles of fluoride and good nutrition.

Oral Health Education Resources

North Carolina Oral Health Section, Department of Health and Human Services

This tool provides many resources on hygiene, dental sealants, fluoride, nutrition, and safety and first aid that can be printed and duplicated to share with families.

Parent's Checklist for Good Dental Health Practices in Child Care

National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education

This checklist encourages parents to look at the oral health practices their children are experiencing in child care and early education settings. It is also designed for use by early childhood and health professionals in influencing the quality of oral practices in child care.

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- **Ask. Advise. Refer.**
- **Don't Share Germs** (Spanish)
- **How to Brush and Floss**
- **Infant Tooth Decay**
- **Save Face. Wear a Mouth Guard**
- **Stop Dental Disease**

**Public Education
(order in bulk)**

see also Bright Futures Toolbox Resources for Families and OHRC consumer brochures

- American Academy of Pediatrics Bookstore
 - **First Steps to a Healthy Smile**
- American Dental Association
 - **For the Dental Patient**
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
 - **A Healthy Mouth for Your Baby** (also in Spanish)
 - **Seal Out Tooth Decay** (also in Spanish)
- NICHD Information Resource Center
 - **Milk Matters Coloring Book** (also in Spanish)
- National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
 - **Brush Up on Healthy Teeth: Simple Steps for Kids' Smiles** (also in Spanish)

Multimedia

- *From Open Wide: Oral Health Training for Health Professionals:*
 - **What is Tooth Decay** (*requires Flash Player*)



National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center's YouTube Channel



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With funding from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resources and Services Administration
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