



Improving oral health: A toolkit to support commissioning of supervised toothbrushing programmes in early years and school settings

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Staff wash their hands before and after each toothbrushing session and all cuts, abrasions and breaks in the skin are covered with a waterproof dressing before toothbrushing and cleaning is carried out
- Supervisors dispense the toothpaste onto a clean surface such as a plate or paper towel
- There is sufficient spacing between the quantities of dispensed toothpaste to allow collection without cross-contamination
- Care is taken to ensure that toothbrushes do not touch each other and cross-contaminate when being removed from or replaced in storage systems
- Toothbrushes are individually identifiable enabling each child to be able to recognise their own brush
- After brushing, toothbrushes are rinsed thoroughly and individually under cold water and replaced in the storage system to allow them to air dry
- Any toothbrushes dropped onto the floor are discarded
- Storage systems should allow air-flow around the toothbrush heads to enable the toothbrushes to dry. Storage systems are stored within a designated toothbrush storage trolley or in a clean, dry cupboard
- Storage systems in toilet areas must have manufacturers' covers however it is important that the covers allow the free-flow of air and are stored at adult height or in a suitable toothbrush storage trolley
- Dedicated household gloves are worn when cleaning storage systems and sinks
- Manufacturers' guidelines are followed when cleaning and maintaining storage systems
- Storage systems, trolleys and storage areas are cleaned, rinsed and dried at least once a week by staff using warm water and household detergent. Storage systems are replaced if cracks, scratches or rough surfaces develop