Training Guide

Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment

Information and quizzes to learn how to correctly assess the oral health of Kindergarten-age children.
Why is the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Important?

- Children with dental pain have 3x lower test scores compared to children not in pain.
- Children with dental pain have are 2x more likely to miss school.
- Dental pain is the #1 chronic disease for children.
- 50% of children entering kindergarten will already have a cavity.
- Left untreated, dental pain and disease worsens.
- Assessments track trends in a community to identify interventions.
- Schools decide to participate.
- Finding a child in pain can provide them the keys to finding a dental home.
- You make the difference by going to the children.
Using the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Form

There are 3 sections on the Assessment

1. Child’s information completed by parent/legal guardian

2. Clinical section completed by a dental professional

3. Waiver to opt-out and reasons why not able to complete
### Doing the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Using gloves, light, and tongue depressor if needed, perform an inspection of the mouth, teeth, and gums.</td>
<td>Remember: white spots are NOT considered caries lesions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lift the lips with a tongue depressor</td>
<td>Photo examples on following pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ask child if their teeth hurt when eating or drinking.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Record finding on Section 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Doing the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment

No obvious problems found

• No visible decay, inflammation or oral problems

• May have restorations or sealants

• General good oral health

Examples
Doing the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment

Early dental care recommended

• Mild Dental Problems – caries without pain or infection or child would benefit from sealants or evaluation

• Condition is Not Urgent - Requires a dental referral

• Child reports no pain

Examples

Small carious lesions

Mild gingivitis
(slightly red and swollen gums)
Examples

Urgent care needed (pain, infection, swelling, soft tissue lesions)

• Severe Dental Problems – Large carious lesions, abscess, extensive gingivitis, a history of pain, or severe (medically handicapping) malocclusion

• Need for Dental Care is Urgent – Conditions can progress rapidly to an emergency.

• Make dental appointment today!

Abscess
(See dentist without delay!)

Early childhood caries (ECC)

Large carious lesions

Extensive gingivitis
(red, swollen, infected, inflamed gums)
Doing the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment

Urgent Care Needed – inform teacher
child needs immediate evaluation

- Emergency Dental Treatment Required
  - Acute injury, oral infection, or pain

- See Dentist Immediately - or at least within 24 hours

Examples

Acute injuries

Oral infection / cellulitis
Training Guide

Quiz Section
Quiz #1

Based on the image to the right, select correct answer(s)

☐ Caries Experience

☐ Visible Decay Present

Treatment Urgency:
☐ No obvious problem found

☐ Early dental care recommended

☐ Urgent care needed
Quiz #1 - Answers

Based on the image to the right, select correct answer(s)

✔ Caries Experience

☐ Visible Decay Present

Treatment Urgency:

☐ No obvious problem found

✔ Early dental care recommended

☐ Urgent care needed
Quiz #1
Assessment Form Entry

Example of Section 2 form completion
Quiz #2

Based on the image to the right, select correct answer(s)

☐ Caries Experience

☐ Visible Decay Present

Treatment Urgency:

☐ No obvious problem found

☐ Early dental care recommended

☐ Urgent care needed
Quiz #2 – Answers

Based on the image to the right, select correct answer(s)

✔ Caries Experience

✔ Visible Decay Present

Treatment Urgency:
☐ No obvious problem found
☐ Early dental care recommended

✔ Urgent care needed
Quiz #2
Assessment Form Entry

Example of Section 2 form completion

[Image of Section 2 form completion]
Training Guide

Thank you!

Slides adapted from Children’s Health and Disability Prevention presentation:

Link:
http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/chdp/Pages/CHDPDentalTraining.aspx