

Improving mouth care for children and young people in residential special education settings

A guide for parents and guardians



What is the Mini Mouth Care Matters programme?

Mini Mouth Care Matters is a programme developed to ensure children and young people with learning disabilities, autism or both have a healthy mouth.

What do we want to happen?

1. For your child to have a remote oral health check-in by a dentist who is trained to look after children and young people with learning disabilities, autism or both. A remote oral health check-in may take place by phone or video call.
2. To make sure your child is receiving good quality, daily mouth care every day, with support if they need it.
3. To train staff to help with daily mouth care and tooth brushing and to regularly check if there are any problems in the mouth.
4. To make sure your child can see a dentist as soon as possible if they get any problems.

Why is having a healthy mouth important?

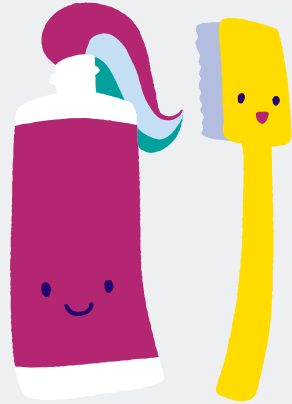
Having a healthy mouth helps us to eat, speak, socialise and smile. It can also affect our confidence. If not looked after, dental problems can occur, for example toothache and gum disease.

Did you know?

Dental problems are almost entirely preventable if we can ensure effective daily mouth care is provided, along with a healthy, balanced diet. A child or young person with learning disabilities, autism or both may not be able to communicate when suffering from toothache. The pain may cause changes to eating, sleeping, behaviour and in some cases self-harm, such as biting.

To do this, we will need your help:

1. For permission for your child to be part of this programme and to have a remote oral health check-in.
2. To fill in a form with details about your child's health, including their diet and their past experiences with dentists.
3. To carry on your child's toothbrushing routine when they are at home.



What is a remote oral health check-in?

Your child will have a remote oral health check-in with a member of the oral healthcare team.

This will help to identify any current problems and the risk of getting future dental problems.

The team will decide which dental environment your child will be best suited to e.g. dental practice, community dental or hospital.

The oral healthcare team can also advise on toothbrushing equipment and ways to help you support your child at home.



What happens next?

Your child will be given a toothbrushing pack and the staff at their school will be trained on how to help them with mouth care. We will then contact you with more information about a future remote oral health check-in.

If your child is under 16 years old and you are happy for them to have a remote oral health check-in, please fill in the consent form attached to this leaflet.

“Every child and young person
deserves a smile for life”



If you have any questions, please contact:



I am happy for my child to have a remote oral health check-in:

Child's name:

Date of birth:

Gender:

Signed:

Print name:

Relationship to child:

Annual consent form for medical/ dental interventions held with school: **Yes** **No**

My child is seen for regular dental check ups:
 Yes **No**

If your child is already seeing a dentist regularly, please provide their details here including name and address of dental practice:

Please return this form to the school by:

