



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

Dental Neglect Management Checklist

Child's Name **Number** **Date**

Dental Care Provider Information	
What is the name and phone number of your child's Dentist or Clinic?	
Have you been told that your child has serious dental decay that must be treated?	Yes No Don't Know
Is there a treatment plan for your child's dental problem? If not, why not?	Yes No Reason:
When is your child's next dental appointment?	
Do you expect to have trouble getting to your child's next dental appointment? If so, why?	No Yes Reason:

Dental Care Questions	Reason for Importance	Yes	No	N/A
Tooth Brushing				
Does the family indicate that they understand that dental health (including the baby teeth) is important?	Many families don't think baby teeth are important since they eventually fall out.			
If there is an infant in the home, does the family understand that they should start brushing his/her teeth as soon as the first tooth appears?	Good dental health habits starts early. Many children have tooth decay before they are two years old.			
Does the child have his/her own toothbrush?	Without a toothbrush, good dental health is impossible. Toothbrushes should not be shared.			
Is there a fluoride-containing toothpaste in the bathroom?	Toothpaste is important. Fluoride makes tooth enamel stronger.			
If old enough, can the child demonstrate to you how he/she brushes his/her teeth?	A child who can't show you how it's done is not being taught good dental care habits.			
How often does the child brush his/her teeth? If old enough, ask the child, not the parent.	Teeth should be at least twice a day. The child should rinse his/her mouth with water if brushing not possible.			
Good Eating Habits for Dental Health				
Does the family know that they should never put a bottle or sippy cup of milk or juice in the crib or bed with an infant or child?	The infant or child who sleeps with a cup or bottle continually bathes his/her teeth in sugar, a very common cause of severe tooth decay.			

If there is an infant in the home, does the family know that they should always hold the infant while giving a bottle and never prop a bottle?	Propped bottles are important risk factors for tooth decay, choking and failure to thrive.			
If there is an infant in the home, does the family know that they should start teaching him/her to drink from a cup when he/she can sit well without support, typically around 9 months?	Weaning from bottle to cup helps prevent dental caries. The goal is to have the child off the bottle by 12 months of age or shortly thereafter.			
Does the family know that toddlers should be given a cup or juice box only at meal or snack time and should not carry one around?	Toddlers who carry around sippy cups, bottles and juice boxes take frequent sips and bathe their teeth in sugar all day, leading to tooth decay.			
Check the pantry and refrigerator. Are healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, and dairy products available?	Children left to their own devices will often eat candy, sugary cereals and snacks and drink lots of sugary juice.			
Does the family know that children should be limited to 4-6 ounces of juice a day? They can have all the water they want when thirsty.	Children drink juice more for its sweet taste than thirst. Those who drink a lot of juice don't drink as much milk as they need. This can cause tooth decay and poor growth.			
<p>Lists of free and low-cost dental care services can be found at floridadental.org or by calling the Florida Dental Association Foundation at (800) 877-9922.</p> <p>Possible Obstacles to Successful Management of Dental Problems:</p>				