

Supervised Toothbrushing Scheme Risk Assessment

Name of setting

Please add, delete or amend any risks dependant on your individual setting

Number	Identify Hazard	Who may be harmed?	What are the risks?	What can be done to remove or lessen the risk?	Completed by and date
1. Potential hazards & managing risks whilst preparing to implement toothbrushing					
1a	Cuts and abrasions to staff and children	All staff and children participating	Potential ingress and transfer of bacteria/germs	Ensure waterproof dressings are used to cover cuts and abrasions on staff and children. Ensure staff are trained and have read Infection Prevention Control guidelines (IPC).	
1b	Staff & children may not wash or sanitise hands thoroughly	All staff and children participating	Transfer of bacteria/germs to children who are brushing	Ensure all staff have attended Brilliant Brushers training & read IPC guidelines in the toolkit. Children to be well supervised at all times. Regular Quality Assurance monitoring undertaken by the supervised toothbrushing lead in the setting, using the Quality Assurance Monitoring Tool.	
1c	Staff not changing disposable gloves after assisting a child with toothbrushing, prior to assisting another child	All staff and children participating	Transfer of bacteria/germs to children who are brushing	Make sure all staff have received supervised toothbrushing training and have read the quality standards and IPC. Regular quality assurance monitoring undertaken by the supervised toothbrushing lead in the setting, using the Quality Assurance Monitoring Toolkit to observe changing of gloves.	
1d	Staff member may not be able to wear full PPE – i.e. disposable gloves and/or apron due to behavioural and sensory needs of children	All staff and children participating	Transfer of bacteria/germs to children who are brushing and staff members	Thorough hand washing must be completed before and after assisted toothbrushing by the staff member as advised in IPC section of the toolkit. Hands must be washed between assisting each individual child with brushing to ensure no cross infection occurs. Be aware of splash and spray contamination and follow local infection prevention control procedures.	

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1. Potential hazards & managing risks whilst preparing to implement toothbrushing					
1e	Toothpaste may spill onto the floor when lead/supervisor is dispensing paste onto a paper towel/plastic plate or when children transfer paste from paper towel to toothbrush	All staff and children participating	Children touch or ingest paste resulting in potential contamination Someone may slip on the paste	Paste is only dispensed onto paper towel or plastic plate when toothbrushing is ready to commence in a safe area (i.e. on a carpet, at a table or sink). Children are made aware of how to transfer toothpaste from the paper towel to their toothbrush (this can be supported with the use of any relevant learning aids such as symbols, Makaton, or Visual Schedules etc.). Any spillage is cleaned immediately. Children to be supervised at all times.	
1f	A toothbrush may touch more than one amount of paste when transferring dispensed paste from a plastic plate to a toothbrush	Participating children	Cross contamination	Staff should ensure adequate space between each amount of dispensed toothpaste, if using a plastic plate. If necessary, staff load the toothbrush to reduce the risk of the child taking more than one amount. If children are loading the toothbrush they must be supervised at all times.	
2. Potential hazards & managing risks whilst children are brushing					
2a	Children picking up incorrect toothbrush	Other participating children	Transfer of bacteria/germs	Children are well supervised at all times (and where appropriate confirm to staff which is their toothbrush before removing it from the rack). Racks to be stored out of the reach of children (space is class specific) and only taken from storage area when all children have washed hands and are ready. Where necessary, staff to remove the toothbrush from rack and hand the toothbrush to the child.	
2b	Toothbrushes can touch if children are too close	Other children	Spreading bacteria/germs	Ensure children are always supervised and keep sufficient space between the children whilst they are brushing. Dispose of any brushes if the toothbrush heads do touch.	

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2. Potential hazards & managing risks whilst children are brushing					
2c	Children biting/scratching others	All staff and children participating	Bite injuries and scratches from children who are displaying unregulated behaviours	Ensure that staff that are implementing the toothbrushing are aware of potential behaviours or signs that behaviour is unregulated. Staff to reduce biting risk by holding the toothbrush at the far end of the handle. If pupils are starting to display concerning behaviours, stop the toothbrushing for that session and try again when the child is more regulated. Follow each child's individual care plan and consider an individual risk assessment if required.	
2d	Spillage or droplets created when spitting out excess paste during or after brushing	All staff and children participating	Cross contamination	Ensure sufficient space between children. Encourage children to put paper towel to mouth before spitting out. Staff demonstrate process before commencing brushing.	
2e	Children swallowing toothpaste as unable to spit out	Participating children	Over ingestion of toothpaste	Ensure a smear of toothpaste for up to 3 years and a pea size amount for 3 years and above.	
2f	Children moving around whilst brushing	Participating children	Potential trip or fall Potential injury to the child's mouth	Where possible children to be sat at tables to brush, if not the area used for brushing needs to be assessed for trip hazards. Staff should be aware of children who may move around whilst brushing and should closely supervise (holding hands is ideal but if not to be at least within touching distance). Children are made aware of safety precautions and supported with the use of any relevant learning aids as required.	
2g	Toothbrushes may drop onto the floor	Participating children	Contamination from the floor	Ensure any toothbrushes which fall onto the floor are immediately discarded and replaced. Ensure spare stock is readily available.	
2h	Used paper towels/tissues	Staff and children	Cross contamination	Ensure any used tissues or paper towels are disposed of immediately after brushing in a refuse bag. This can be supported by the use of any relevant learning aids as required.	

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3. Potential hazards and managing risks during cleaning and storing of toothbrushes					
3a	Children rinsing toothbrushes following use	All staff and children participating	Cross contamination from brushes touching sink or taps, or from children frequently touching taps	Staff closely supervise children at all times. Only one child rinses their own toothbrush at the sink at a time. This can be supported by the use of any relevant learning aids as required. If necessary staff to rinse toothbrushes.	
3b	Toothbrush is not replaced in the correct place in the rack	Participating children	Cross contamination if a child uses wrong toothbrush	Staff closely supervise children at all times, and ensure each child replaces toothbrush into correct place/hole - or staff to complete this on the child's behalf. Toothbrush Identification Record should be at hand.	
3c	Rack used to transfer brushes to sink for rinsing	All staff and children participating	Cross contamination to rack & brushes	Where possible children rinse their own toothbrush. This can be supported by the use of any relevant learning aids as required. Where racks are used to transfer brushes to a sink, these must be washed with warm water and household detergent before returning toothbrush to rack. Brushes MUST NOT come into contact with each other at any time, and should be placed on a clean paper towel, with adequate spacing, whilst rack is cleaned.	
3d	Contamination to toothbrushes	Participating children	Cross contamination via droplets	Storage racks MUST NOT be placed directly beside where brushing takes place or beside the toilet area. Lids must be placed onto racks once all brushes have been rinsed and replaced.	
3e	Toothbrushes are incorrectly handled by other children	Participating children	Cross contamination via droplets or contact spread	Children are made aware of their own number or symbol to locate their brush in the rack. This can be supported by the use of relevant learning aids as required. Staff closely supervise children. Brushes in racks are stored out of reach of children, in designated toothbrush storage trolley, shelf or a clean, dry cupboard when not in use.	

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3. Potential hazards and managing risks during cleaning and storing of toothbrushes					
3f	Contamination on surfaces following brushing session	All staff and children participating	Cross contamination	All areas where brushing takes place should be easy to clean. All areas where brushing has taken place, including sinks, to be cleaned by staff using household detergent. Household gloves, dedicated for this purpose are used. Storage racks should be cleaned and dried weekly with warm water and household detergent.	
3g	Staff and children do not wash or sanitise hands following brushing	All staff and children participating	Cross contamination	All staff are trained prior to starting supervised toothbrushing and have read Brilliant Brushers toolkit. Summary guidance poster for staff is displayed for easy reference. Children are supervised during handwashing or sanitising. This can be supported by the use of any relevant learning aids as required.	

4. Please include any additional risks that have not been identified.

* All cleaning products must be COSHH risk assessed.

Completed and signed by: (Manager/Headteacher and Lead Person)

Date:

Review Date (within 3 months of commencement and annually thereafter)