XXX LA Team

[enter date]

Dear [Name of nursery manager, child centre manager, headteacher]

**Re: Setting up a supervised toothbrushing scheme in early years settings**

XXX LA Team [amend as needed] has acquired funding to introduce a supervised toothbrushing scheme in selected [enter the applicable setting, children’s centres, nurseries, schools, childminders] and we would like to invite expressions of interest for you to be a participating setting.

Supervised toothbrushing is where children are supervised by setting staff to brush their teeth once per day. It is not intended to replace toothbrushing at home but rather to supplement it.

Establishing positive oral hygiene practices in early years will help children maintain good oral health throughout life, reducing their risk of decay and tooth extractions. Tooth decay in baby teeth can have a detrimental effect on learning, self-esteem and the overall quality of life of a child. This is a priority for [local area] as almost [local area statistics] of children aged 5 have some dental decay. There is also a misconception amongst some families that brushing baby teeth is unnecessary.

The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities has recommended supervised toothbrushing schemes based on the strong evidence base for their effectiveness and cost-effectiveness.

We will support you to introduce a toothbrushing scheme into the everyday activities of children within your setting to ensure it becomes a positive and routine experience.

**It is simpler and not as time-consuming as you may think…**.

Children brush their teeth during small group/circle time for 2 minutes in a dry area

There is no need for water on the toothbrush first or for rinsing after brushing. Dry brushing ensures that the fluoride from the toothpaste stays on the teeth, offering more protection from cavities.

Each participating setting will receive, for FREE, the required training (including infection control) along with storage racks and enough toothpaste and toothbrushes for children in their scheme per term. [Any additional support or resources provided in the local scheme can be added here].

In the first instance, we propose offering the scheme to all 2-5-year-old children, though you may not wish all classes to be involved initially. We are aiming to deliver the training in [enter term date] and begin the scheme in [enter term date].

Please help us make a significant difference in our children’s oral health. We would like to invite expressions of interest from your setting to be involved. For more information and to register **your interest, please get in touch by [enter date]**.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

XXX LA Team