



Melrose Rural Care

Dental Care Policy

From our philosophy: **"We aim to provide high quality care and education through a partnership between parents, children, community, staff and the Department of Education and Children's Services."**

With the belief that:

- ❖ "Children develop individually through stages, in their own learning style varying through cultural and family values and perception of these may vary.
- ❖ Healthy self esteem is the basis of positive physical, intellectual and social growth.
- ❖ We believe children need to express themselves in a safe environment.
- ❖ Children learn most effectively through hands on experience, through play.
- ❖ We value involvement of families and community and we encourage open communication.
- ❖ Our planning and evaluation is inclusive to children with additional needs.
- ❖ Our aims of planning and daily activities reflect our philosophy and are made available to families.

The MELC support the oral and dental health of children using our centre. We do this by:

- Encouraging the children to rinse their mouths with water after eating. They are encouraged to become independent with this as a self help skill.
- The Centre systematically incorporates the healthy eating guidelines and dental care into the curriculum and education/information for families.
- The Centre has access to referral to the School Dental Service located at Port Pirie. Parents are given this information on enrolment.
- The staff consult with relevant health care organisations for information and pass this information on to families and children through meetings, written pamphlets, newsletter additions and programming eg "Healthy Eating Guide" supplied by the Health Promotion Unit at the Women's and Children's Hospital
- Hygiene and dental information is provided to families in their home language

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Director

Referenced: Children, Youth and Women's Health Service "Kids Health -Teeth"

Adopted: / /2007 Review ,,,,,,,/09

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