**Oral Health Policy**

**for ……………………………………………** *(Name of Setting)*

*Date Agreed…………………… Date of Review …………………………*

1. **Statement of Intent**

Maintaining good oral health improves a person’s general health and wellbeing and can also play a part in sustaining good mental health. This oral health policy sets out how staff will work with children and their families to promote care for their mouths.

1. **Key Principles**

Staff will promote good oral health in accordance with statutory framework EYFS (section 3.45) “The provider must promote the good health, including the oral health, of children attending the setting.”

The cross cutting themes from Delivering Better Oral Health with early years, are around breast feeding babies, ending bottle feeding by 1, reducing sugar intake and brushing teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day. Recommendations around dental visits are in a time of flux.

**2.1 Oral Health Promotion in Learning**

Oral health messages will be reflected in the day to day running of the setting and endorsed throughout the playful learning activities of the setting. Staff will work to allay fears of dental professionals and portray positive oral health message around toothbrushing and nutrition.

**2.2 Oral Health Promotion to Families**

Staff will support families to learn the basics of maintaining oral health in children, through discussions about the risks and top tips, signposting to other services and courses and providing home activities to enhance family learning.

**3. General Procedures**

**3.1 Local Schemes of Intervention**

Where local schemes are available and provide service for which children in the setting maybe eligible, staff will work with administrators of the schemes to ensure they are reached with an invitation to participate.

**3.2 Medicine and Oral Health**

Sometimes children may require medicines that are high in sugar. Staff will work with families, to ensure they are aware of the oral health risks and will advise parents/carers to discuss with a health visitor or health professional to reduce the potential impact.

**3.3 Dental Appointments**

Families will not be penalised for taking children out of the provision during the day for a dental appointment. Staff will raise concerns about availability of dental services with the local Healthwatch.

**3.4 Safeguarding and Policy**

Where Dental Neglect is identified, staff will consult the settings safeguarding policy on grounds of neglectful attitude towards the child’s oral health needs – this intersects with the “Neglect” area of safeguarding.

**3.5 Staff training**

All staff are aware of and follow practices outline in our Oral Health Policy. Staff involved in oral health promotion interventions will be appropriately trained to do so**.** Procedures for where to seek dental care will be available to staff.

**4. Available resources**

For further information supporting oral health in early years settings, please see the Better Health North Somerset website: https://www.betterhealthns.co.uk/practitioners/healthy-early-years/oral-health-for-early-years/