



Healthy Smile Healthy Child: Early Support For Infants and Toddlers

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Community Profile

The Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (, ESIT) was established by Congress in 1986. It is available to families of infants and toddlers aged three and under who are suspected of having a developmental delay (physical, cognitive, language), disability, or special need. The program provides services that focus on improving these children’s trajectories by helping families manage their children with special needs, and by providing early interventions that better prepare children for school. Their program also focuses on helping these children grow independently and reducing the likelihood of institutionalization (ESIT n.d.).

Needs Assessment

Childhood caries negatively impacts children with disabilities at a higher rate than children without disabilities (Kumar, S. et al., 2017). Reasons for this include physical and cognitive delays that make oral homecare more challenging, limited availability to dental care that is appropriate for the child and overall lack of knowledge regarding the importance of maintaining good oral health. Our program is dedicated to helping the family resource coordinators in fulfilling the oral health needs of families enrolled in the ESIT program.

Implementation

TITLE: Healthy Smile, Healthy Child

TARGET GROUP: Family Resource Coordinators and the ESIT clients.

ESTIMATED LENGTH: 5-minute PowerPoint Module

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD: Virtual Presentation and recorded module.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

1. Discuss developmental milestones related to the developing oral cavity.
2. Identify appropriate oral hygiene practices in challenging situations.
3. Explain periodicity of dental visits.

Program Goal: Prepare parents of children with special needs for taking their child to the dentist.

Inputs/Resources	Activities	Output	Outcomes -- Impact		
			Short term	Intermediate term	Long term
FRCs	Develop curriculum	# of FRC's trained # of families trained by FRCs	Parents will take their child to the dentist sooner and more frequently.	Parents will develop and implement homecare skills for the child that are adequate and individualized to their needs.	Children will experience reduced caries due to early preventative care.
PowerPoint module	Attend FRC monthly meeting to train FRC's on curriculum	# of families accessing dental care for the first time	Ease the dental experience for the child/parent		Reduce dental anxiety for the child
Computer access or hard copy of PowerPoint			Educate the parent about the patient's oral health needs appropriate for their age	Their dentist to improve their child's oral health.	Prepare the patient/parent for future appointments
Dental hygiene students		FRC will present information to parents during home visits.	Sets expectations for the child for a dental visit		
ESIT program director					

Intervention Goal

EDUCATIONAL GOAL: To guide and educate families about when and how to access and utilize dental care in a manner that is responsive to their children’s needs.

TALKING POINTS:

1. Eruption of primary (baby) teeth
2. How to clean your child’s teeth
3. Resources for accessing dental care
4. When to schedule the first dental visit
5. How to prevent cavities
6. Importance of Fluoride
7. Preparing for the dental visit
8. Anticipatory Guidance



References

Early Support for Infants & Toddlers. (n.d.). *Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families.*
<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/esit>

Kumar, S., Pai, D., & Saran, R. (2017). Oral Health Characteristics and Dental Rehabilitation of Children with Global Developmental Delay. *Case reports in dentistry*, 2017, 5486327.
<https://doi.org/10.1155/2017/5486327>