

# Early Support for Infants and Toddlers: Oral Health Education for Family Resource Coordinators

Ganbaatar, Donna; Hernandez-Palacios, Deysi; Kim, Sooji; Nichols, Taylor

## Project and Goal

This project demonstrates a campus-community partnership between Eastern Washington University (EWU) dental hygiene students and the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program. In this project students partnered with SRHD and ESIT professionals to conduct a needs assessment related to oral health for this population. Based on the needs assessment students developed, implemented, and evaluated an oral health education program directed to Family Resource Coordinators (FRCs). The goal of the project is to develop an ongoing partnership whereby FRCs have access to current oral health messages and lesson plans to share with parents during home visits by the FRCs.

## Background and Critical Issues

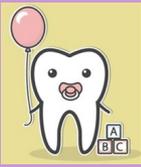
Given the multifactorial nature of the dental decay process and social determinants of health, dental decay prevention and management calls for an interprofessional approach. This is especially important for children with special health care needs ((SHCNs). ESIT provides services to children three years of age who are suspected of having developmental delays, disabilities, or special needs.

This partnership provides an opportunity for dental hygiene students to partner with ESIT professionals.

## Mission & Vision: Community Partner

*Support children with disabilities of developmental delays from birth to age three.*

## Logic Model

Inputs/ Resources	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes - Impact
<p><b>Spokane Regional Health District:</b> ESIT, EWU Dental Hygiene Students, &amp; Professor Jones</p> <p><b>Community Partner</b>  <b>Liaison:</b> Elena Mierau, from ESIT</p> <p><b>Facility:</b> Family Resource Coordinators (home visits)</p> <p><b>Homecare Products:</b> toothbrush, floss/floss holder, toothpaste, and mouthwash.</p> <p><b>Resources:</b> Computer software to create PowerPoint presentations.</p>	<p><b>ESIT Partners:</b> Gain education in order to go to homes and educate parents on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• homecare</li> <li>• phases of tooth development</li> <li>• importance of the first dental visit</li> <li>• how to prevent getting cavities</li> </ul> <p>ESIT implements educational activities with families.</p> <p>ESIT promotes the importance of the first dental visit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the educational PowerPoint that was provided easy to understand and effective?</li> <li>• PowerPoint Presentation on homecare instructions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Short term:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the knowledge of oral care.</li> <li>• Increase the knowledge on early childhood caries.</li> <li>• Deliver oral health care education to FRC staff.</li> </ul> <p><b>Intermediate term:</b>            The PowerPoint will prepare FRC members to deliver educational information on homecare, early childhood caries, and the first dental visit during the home visits.</p> <p><b>Long term:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the overall oral health status of children.</li> <li>• Reduce the amount of early childhood caries.</li> <li>• Implement a continuation of oral health education and service.</li> </ul>
			<p><b>BABY TEETH ARE IMPORTANT!</b></p>

## Implementation

“My Shiny Teeth and Me” module illustrates proper brushing techniques, prevention of early childhood caries, the benefits of fluoride, chart of tooth eruption and exfoliation, information on the importance of early dental visits, and advice on breaking non-nutritive sucking habits.

## Partnership Reflection

Through our partnership with the SRHD ESIT Program, we were able to understand the community’s need for dental education on the oral health of infants and toddlers. The importance of this public health program is for the families of the children to understand the significance of routine preventive oral health care visits. As future dental hygienists, we understand and value how we will be able to use our skills for interprofessional experiences to interact with our community and promote the importance of access to oral health care.

## Future Goals

- Reduce the amount of early childhood caries.
- Improve the overall oral health status of children.
- Implement a continuation of oral health education and service.

## References