

MOUTH AND DENTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Objective: To learn what to do if an oral emergency occurs.



You Will Need:

- A copy of the ***Dental First Aid*** printout for reference.

Procedure:

- 1) Discuss each scenario with the class. Alternatively, divide the class into small groups to answer the questions. Students may choose to report or be creative with role-playing the scenario.
- 2) Decide what should be done in each situation to prevent an injury to the mouth or teeth, or to repair damage.
- 3) Refer to the “Dental First Aid” page.

Scenarios:

- Your best friend got a football for a birthday present. You are playing tackle football, and you bite your tongue as you are tackled to the ground.
What should you do?
- Your friend fell off his skateboard and knocked out a permanent tooth.
What should you do?
- You are playing tag with your friends during recess at school. Your friend accidentally gets hit by a swing and chipped one of his permanent front teeth. What should be done?
What should you do?
- You fell on the pavement and your top teeth cut through your bottom lip. Your teeth are not injured, but your lip is bleeding.
What should you do?

► **Curriculum Objectives (Grade 3):** 1.6 describe behaviors and procedures that contribute to personal safety.

► **Curriculum Objectives (Grade 4):** 1.6 Evaluate ways of minimizing risks in potentially dangerous situations.

DENTAL FIRST AID

FOLLOWING A HEAD OR MOUTH INJURY...

- 1) Calm the injured person.
- 2) Determine the type of injury.
If the injury is serious, contact the parent and arrange to take the child to the emergency room.
- 3) Check for a knocked out tooth (see "KNOCKED-OUT PERMANENT TOOTH" below)

Serious Injury?

Contact the parent and arrange to take the child to the emergency room.

Knocked out tooth?

Find the tooth and refer below for instructions.

Minor bleeding?

Apply direct pressure with sterile gauze or a clean cloth.

Bleeding that does not stop within ten minutes?

Contact the parents and arrange for the child to go to the emergency room.

Profuse Bleeding?

Contact the parent and arrange for emergency services by an emergency squad or emergency room.

KNOCKED-OUT PERMANENT TOOTH...

- 1) Find the tooth, but do not handle it by the roots.
- 2) Rinse the tooth gently if dirty. Do not scrub the tooth.
- 3) Place the tooth back in the socket gently.
- 4) Instruct the child to hold the tooth with a finger or tissue (or see below).
- 5) Keep the tooth moist (see below).
- 6) Contact the parent and arrange to take the child to the dentist immediately.

Child having trouble holding tooth or tooth is not easily replaced?

Place the tooth in a cheek pocket. If not able to do this, place in a glass of water (last resort).

LOOSENED OR CHIPPED TOOTH...

- 1) Clean the area with warm water.
- 2) Avoid moving the tooth.
- 3) Apply a cold compress to the face to minimize swelling.
- 4) Contact the parent and arrange to take the child to the dentist immediately.

TOOTH PUSHED INTO THE GUMS...

- 1) Wash the area with warm water.
- 2) Contact the parent and arrange to take the child to the dentist immediately.
Do Not Attempt to Move Tooth into Correct Position.

TOOTHACHE...

- 1) Contact the parent.
- 2) Suggest the child goes to the dentist as soon as possible.
Do Not Place Aspirin on the Gum Tissue (will burn tissue).

INJURY TO LIPS, TONGUE AND/OR CHEEK...

- 1) Rinse the affected area with warm water.
- 2) Place a cold compress over the area to minimize swelling.

Is the injury due to a fall or is a tooth chipped?

Contact the parent to take the child to the dentist immediately.

BROKEN OR DISLOCATED JAW

- 1) Immobilize the jaw by placing a scarf, necktie, or towel under the chin and tying the ends on top of the head.
- 2) Contact the parents and arrange to take the child to an emergency room for an examination immediately.