Teacher Refresher Information



**Key Stage 1**

### Oral Hygiene

Normally our first teeth come through our gums (erupt) at around 6 months of age and we will have a full set of 20 baby (primary) teeth by the time we are 2 ½ years old. At around 6 years old our first permanent molars erupt and the front primary teeth begin to get wobbly and fall out (exfoliate) and are replaced by the permanent (adult) teeth. On average by 12 years old we have lost all our baby teeth and will have a full set of 28 teeth. By 17-21 years old our wisdom teeth will usually erupt, giving the full 32 permanent teeth, which if we look after, can last for the rest of our lives.

Bacteria can grow on teeth, clumping together to form a sticky substance called dental plaque. You will see this in your own mouth as a creamy line around your teeth or sometimes feel it as a furry layer with your tongue. If plaque is not brushed away regularly or there is a high frequency of sugar in the diet, the bacteria within the plaque can lead to tooth decay (caries).

When we eat sugary foods and drinks, bacteria in the plaque can use the sugars to make acid. Over time this can dissolve the outer surface of our teeth (the enamel). As more enamel is dissolved, a hole (cavity) appears. As the decay process continues, the bacteria can reach the nerve and cause toothache.

If no dental treatment is given, the tooth decay (caries) can spread and bacteria can penetrate the nerve, leading to inflammation of the bone and surrounding structures of the teeth which can result in an abscess (lump on the gum) that is filled with pus. This can make you very poorly and the tooth will usually need to be removed (extracted).

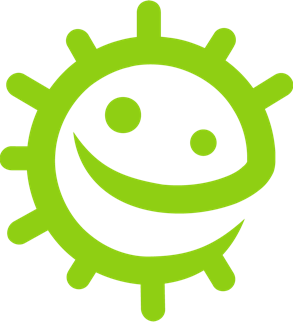
Dental health is extremely important; in 2018/19 31.59% of 5-year-old children in Northern Ireland had tooth decay, this is the main reason for children aged 5 to 9 being admitted to hospital. The good news is that tooth decay can be prevented by limiting the number of times we eat foods and drinks with added sugar, brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste and regularly seeing the dentist to check the health of our teeth and gums.

Fluoride in toothpaste can help strengthen our teeth and slow down the decay process. The most important time to brush teeth with fluoride toothpaste is before going to bed at night. After brushing, it is important to spit out the excess toothpaste but to not rinse directly after. To make it easy to remember it is best to add tooth brushing to a twice daily hygiene routine morning and night.

#### Healthy Eating

In the UK, 34% of primary school children are now overweight and children are now eating three times more sugar than they should. Half of the sugar children eat comes from unhealthy snacks and sugary drinks. Fruit and vegetables are still the healthiest snack choice.

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**Key Stage 1**

# Prevention of Infection: Oral Hygiene

# Lesson 4: Oral Hygiene

Pupils learn how plaque forms and why and how sugary food and drink can damage your teeth.

## Learning Intention

### All pupils will:

* Explore how plaque forms on teeth and understand the impact of sugary food and drinks on dental health, empowering them to make better choices to protect their teeth.

## Northern Ireland Curriculum Links

### Curriculum Key Elements

* Personal Health and Moral Character

### Curriculum Skills

* Communication
* Managing Information
* Problem Solving and Decision Making
* Working with Others

### Curriculum Areas of Learning

* Personal Development (PDMU)
* The World Around Us (TWAU)

# Lesson 4: Oral Hygiene

## **Resources Required**

### Activity: Eggshell Experiment

#### Per group

* Egg shells – cracked and then cleaned out
* Clear cups
* High sugar cola
* Semi-skimmed milk or water
* High sugar juice drink
* Labels for cups

### Extension Activity: Tooth Brushing Chart

#### Per pupil

* SW1 e-Bug Healthy Teeth Progress Chart

### Extension Activity: Healthy Food Swaps

#### Per class

* TS1 Oral Hygiene True/False Quiz

#### Per pupil

* SH1 Healthy Food Choice Fact Sheet
* SH2 Oral Hygiene True or False cards
* SW2 Healthy Food Choice

## **Supporting Materials**

* TS1 Oral Hygiene True/False Quiz
* SH1 Healthy Food Choice Fact Sheet
* SH2 Oral Hygiene True or False Cards
* SW1 e-Bug Healthy Teeth Progress Chart
* SW2 Healthy Food Choice

## Advanced Preparation

1. Set out 3 cups per 3-4 students and label these as 1 to 3.
2. Divide up the eggshells so that each cup has one eggshell half

Lesson 4: Oral Hygiene

## Key Words

Bacteria

Plaque

Cavity

Sugar

Acid

Tooth brushing

DecayHealth & Safety

Ensure students do not drink the cola, especially those who may have diabetes. Students with egg or milk allergies or intolerances must not directly handle these components.

See the e-Bug website for alternative activities.

For safe microbiological practices in the classroom consult CLEAPPS

[www.cleapps.org.uk](http://www.cleapps.org.uk)

## **Weblinks**

e-bug.eu/eng/KS1/lesson/ Oral-Hygiene

## Introduction

1. Ask the pupils to think about their teeth; ask the what are they like (they are hard and white and shiny). Ask the pupils why they think their teeth are like that (so that they are strong and can chew and bite food).
2. Pass around the eggshells, have the pupils (carefully) examine them. Ask them if they think they are like any parts of their body? The pupils should be able to identify that they are like their teeth. Tell the pupils that teeth are made of layers. The eggshell is similar to the hard layer on our teeth called the enamel.
3. Explain to the pupils that throughout the day, germs called bacteria can grow on teeth to form a sticky substance called plaque and when we eat sugary foods and drinks the bacteria uses the sugar to attack our teeth (especially the hard outer enamel layer).

## Activity

1. Explain to the pupils you will be using the eggshells to show what sugar can do to our teeth.
2. Divide the class into groups of 3-4 and give them 3 cups labelled 1-3. Assist them placing one eggshell half into each cup and pouring the three drinks you’ve chosen into the cup.
   1. Cola
   2. Water (or milk)
   3. Juice
3. To see the effects, you will need to wait one day. Now, ask the pupils: What will happen to the egg if you leave it in the drink for a long time? Which liquid will change the egg most? Which liquid will change the egg least? You can record their guesses for tomorrow.

After one day, pupils will notice a discoloured and partly dissolved eggshell from the cola, an unchanged eggshell from the water (or milk), and a slightly dissolved eggshell from the juice. This demonstrates that high sugar content foods and drinks can damage the enamel.

## Discussion

The next day, have the pupil check on their eggs. What changes can they see? Why do they think that has happened?

Tell the pupils that the sugar in the drinks has damaged the eggshells and made the shell discolour – remind the pupils that the eggshell is like the enamel on their teeth, and a lot of sugar can cause damage to their teeth.

Ask the pupils what they think they should do to keep their teeth healthy? Answers should include:

* Have sugary food and drinks less often and in small amounts
* Brush your teeth twice a day (before school and before bed)
* Using a fluoride toothpaste
* Spit don’t rinse
* Visit your dentist regularly

## Extension Activities

### Tooth Brushing Chart

SW1 is a useful way to encourage routine tooth brushing. Provide one sheet per pupil. Ask pupils to mark or draw a picture every time they brush their teeth to keep track of how often they have brushed their teeth during one school week. This can be completed in the classroom or at home.

### Healthy food swaps

Begin by reminding pupils how the sugar in the cola effected the eggshell. Eating too much sugar is bad for you and can cause tooth decay. Around half the sugar we consume comes from unhealthy snacks and sugary drinks. That is why it is important to choose healthier snacks.

* Fruit and vegetables are a good snack choice; you can eat them on their own or with a healthy dip.
* Dried fruits have a high sugar content and they should be kept to mealtimes only.

Ask the class what their favourite fruit and vegetable snacks are. Tell pupils that they can swap their unhealthier foods (e.g. sugary breakfast cereals) and drinks (e.g. sugary fizzy drinks, fruit juice and smoothies, full sugar squash) for lower sugar alternatives such as low sugar yoghurt with fruit, lower fat milks, plain waters, or no-added sugar/sugar free squash.

We don’t need to worry about the sugar in whole fruits and vegetable and plain milk and yoghurts because this isn’t added sugar. Smoothies and fruit juices should be consumed a maximum of 150ml per day.

What other swaps can they think of? Provide pupils with SH1 Healthy Food Choice Factsheet to help them complete SW2 and ask pupils to draw their favourite food swaps on SW2.

Food items with the most green labels are considered the healthiest choices and the ideal swap.

### Oral Hygiene True of False Quiz

Hand out SH2 to groups of 3 or 4 pupils. Ask pupils to cut out the cards and hold them up to answer True or False quiz contained in TS1. Answers are provided on the sheet.

## Learning Consolidation

At the end of the lesson, ask the class the series of questions below as a fact checker.

* What is the sticky substance made up of bacteria that clump together on our teeth called?

Answer: Plaque

* Complete the sentence; When we consume sugary foods and drinks, this leads to an attack on our teeth that can lead to?

Answer: Tooth decay

* How many times a day should brush your teeth with toothpaste.

Answer: At least twice

* After brushing, should you; a) spit out the toothpaste and rinse; b) spit out the toothpaste and don’t rinse?

Answer: you should spit out the toothpaste but don’t rinse (this will allow the fluoride to stay on the teeth for longer).

Alternatively, in small groups, ask children to create a ‘Toothbrushing Tips’ poster or set of rules based on what they have learned (e.g. Spit, don’t rinse, Brush twice a day for two minutes). Groups can then present their rules to the class, and the teacher can ensure clarity and alignment with the correct dental health advice.

After group presentations children and provide constructive feedback on the group’s rules in their presentation, focusing on accuracy, clarity, and creativity. Children can then reflect individually on:

* What is one new thing I have learned about toothbrushing today?
* What will I do differently when brushing my teeth?

Each child can then write a simple commitment statement, for example:

“From now on, I will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to take better care of my teeth.”

Display these commitments in the classroom or send them home to involve families in reinforcing positive habits.



## TS1 - Oral Hygiene True or False Quiz

## Healthy Eating

### What do you remember?

#### Are these True or False?

Dried fruits should be

eaten at mealtimes not

as a snack

True

Chocolate biscuits are

a healthier snack than

plain yoghurt and fruit

False

Biscuits contain a lot of added sugar

Lower-fat milk is a

healthier drink choice

than a sports drink

True

Sports drink can contain lots of sugar. Water or lower-fat milk are better choice

Eating too much sugar

can cause tooth decay

True



## SH1 - Healthy Food Choice Fact Sheet

### Healthy Food Choice Fact Sheet

#### Breakfast

Wheat biscuit cereal



Porridge



Jam on toast



High sugar cereal

sugar

fat

salt

sugar

fat

salt

sugar

fat

salt

sugar

fat

salt

#### Drink



No-added sugar/ sugar free squash and water

Chocolate milk



Orange juice



Full sugar cola



sugar

fat

salt

sugar

fat

salt

sugar

fat

salt

sugar

fat

salt

#### Snack

Malt loaf



Low sugar yoghurt



Regular yoghurt



Chocolate bar

sugar

fat

salt

sugar

fat

salt

sugar

fat

salt

sugar

fat

salt

## SH2 Oral Hygiene True or False Cards

## 

False

False

False

True

True

True



## SW1 - e-Bug Healthy Teeth Progress Chart

FRI

I cleaned my teeth in the morning

I cleaned my teeth before bed

I cleaned my teeth for 2 minutes

THU

WED

TUE

MON

### Healthy Teeth Brushing Chart

Name

Class

Add a picture or star each time you brush your teeth



## SW2 - Healthy Food Choice Exercise

### What breakfast, drink and snack would you drink to keep your teeth healthy?

Write your choice

Draw your choice

#### Breakfast

#### Drink

#### Snack

## Lesson Four: Prevention of Infection: Oral Hygiene

### SH2 Oral Hygiene True / False Quiz

* Dried fruits should be eaten at mealtimes and not as a snack – True; dried fruits contain lots of natural sugars
* Chocolate biscuits are a healthier snack option than plain yoghurt and fruit – False; biscuits contain a lot of added sugar
* Lower-fat milk is a healthier drink choice than a sports drink – True; sports drinks can contain lots of sugar. Water or lower-fat milk are better choices
* Eating too much sugar can cause tooth decay – True; bacteria on our teeth feed on the sugar which creates acid and dissolves our teeth