

Outline for Early Childhood Library Activity

Dental Hygiene

Standards / Positions Statements

The focus for today's lesson is to have the children understand the importance of dental hygiene. Cleanliness is very important in our society and children need to understand that aspect of our lives. It is crucial for children to build healthy habits so they can grow into healthy adults.

Children Input / Purpose

I have observed that not all children know about brushing their teeth. Some children do not have toothbrushes at home. Other children do brush their teeth, but not as frequently as needed. I have also seen many children with rotten teeth or missing teeth due to poor dental hygiene. This experience will be with the children through their lifetime. We all have teeth so let's take care of them.

Theme / Main Goals

The goal for this lesson is to remind the children that we all must brush and floss our teeth at least twice a day. Morning and before bedtime are the times when we should all clean our teeth. This can be a family event or individual event. Parents or other adults can assist the child to brush and floss properly. This can be daddy and me or mommy and me time. The children can talk about their dental hygiene and teachers can ask questions such as "what color is your toothbrush?" With the felt piece and actual materials in this activity bag, a teacher can demonstrate how to brush, floss and rinse. I left a space between each tooth so the floss can glide in between each tooth.

Small Group Opportunities

With a small group, the children can take turns to demonstrate their knowledge about dental hygiene. They can demonstrate on the felt piece how they brush at home.

Individual Opportunities

The activity bag can be at children's reach so they can practice whenever they would like and it would be during an appropriate time. Perhaps, a couple of children can play and learn with this activity.

One on One - Teacher / Child Opportunities

If a child needs extra help or would like to hear this lesson again a teacher will surely help him. The child can direct the teacher on what he would like to know more of or the child can give the lesson to the teacher as he remembers it.

Materials / Organization

Included in this activity bag-

Face of a boy made out of felt

Actual Floss

Toothpaste

Actual toothbrush with cap

Assessment / Growth and Development of the Children in your Care

Be more vigilant to see if children are brushing their teeth. Since teachers are close to students and see them daily, we know who does brush and who does not brush. Ask parents if the child likes to brush at home. Explain to parents our lesson about dental hygiene and if the children have asked for a toothbrush. This will be a gradual lesson. If budget allows, purchase toothbrushes and floss for every student or call your local dentist for a donation of these materials for you class.

