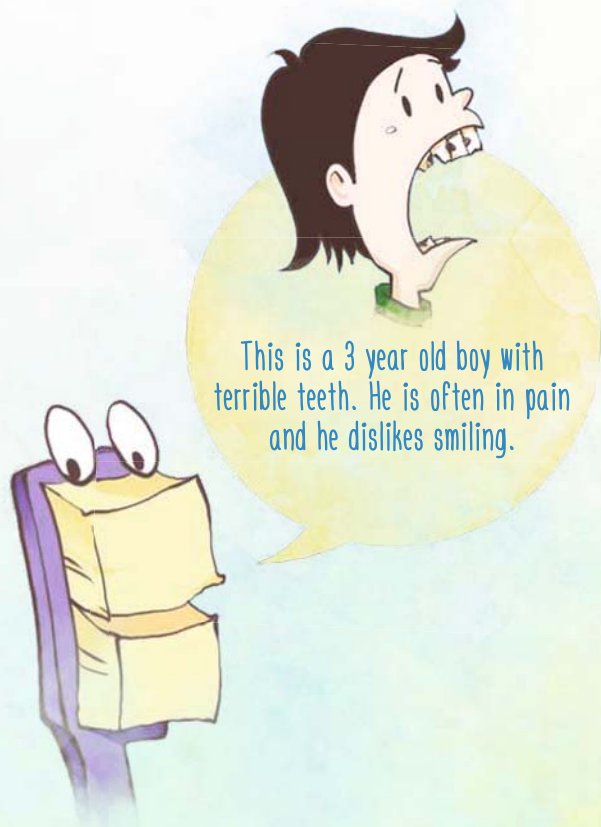


1 / What is TOOTH DECAY?

- 1 Tooth decay is the most common disease which affects children.
- 2 It is caused by mouth bacteria acting on sugars in foods/drinks, producing acids which eats away your child's teeth.
- 3 It causes toothache, infections and early loss of teeth.
- 4 It affects a child's quality of life adversely.



3 / FAQs about FLUORIDE

Why is fluoride good for teeth?

It protects your child's teeth from tooth decay by strengthening it.

Are there any side effects of too much fluoride?

Yes. Your child can get fluorosis on their permanent teeth from swallowing too much fluoride toothpaste. Fluorosis results in a change in colour or texture of the teeth.

How do I prevent fluorosis?

- 1 Teach your child not to swallow toothpaste.
- 2 Control the amount of toothpaste used.

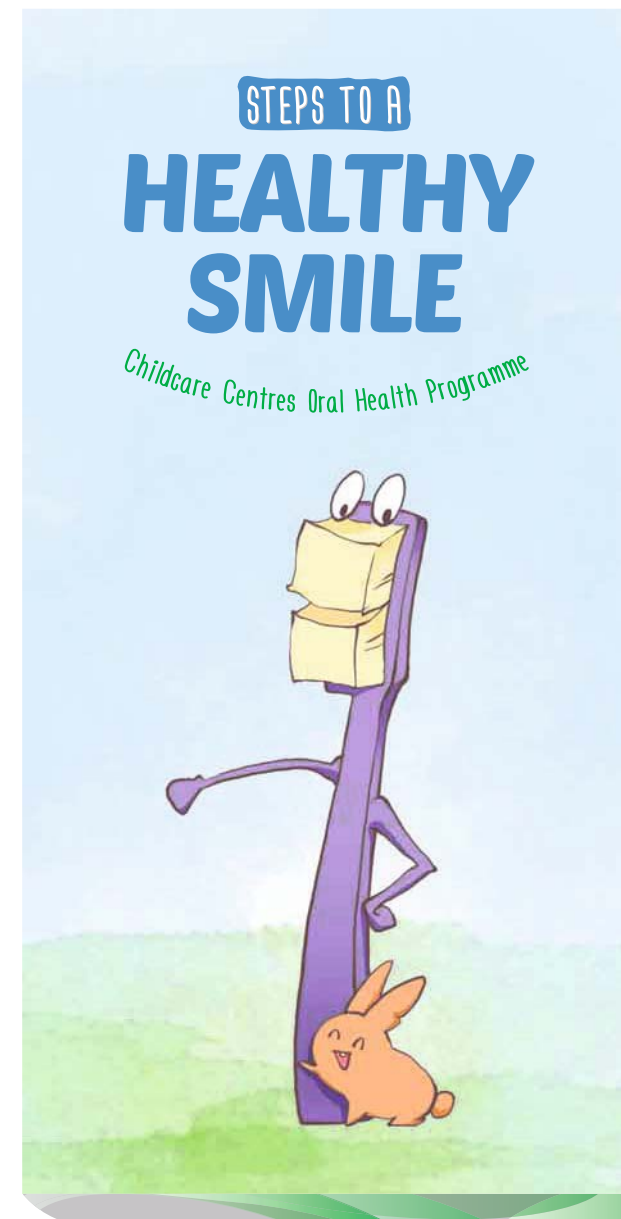


A smear amount (size of a rice-grain) of fluoride toothpaste is recommended for children less than 3 years old with high risk of decay.



A pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste is recommended for children aged 3 and above.

- 3 Ensure that toothpaste is not swallowed during toothbrushing.
- 4 Keep toothpaste out of reach.

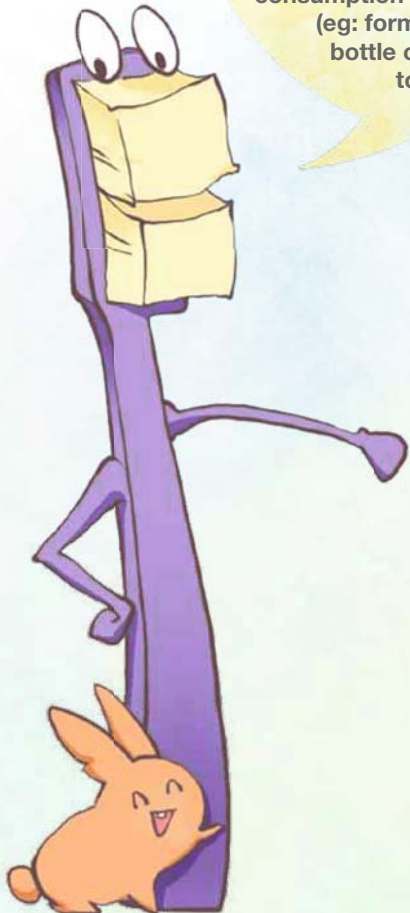


2 / Ways to KEEP DECAY AWAY

By the time your child turns 1, attempt to wean off the milk bottle for night feed. Teach your child to drink from a cup as soon as he can hold one.

Do not put your child to sleep with formula milk in a bottle as this can cause tooth decay. Brush your child's teeth after (not before) their last milk feed.

Formula milk is sweet. Frequent consumption of sweetened beverage (eg: formula milk) in a milk bottle can cause severe tooth decay.



Take your child to a child-friendly dentist when he/she turns 1 so that the dentist can assess his/her risk of developing tooth decay and advise on the appropriate use of toothpaste.

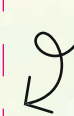


Keep to 3 main meals and 1-2 snacks a day.

Dried fruits such as raisins, sweetened cereals, cakes and biscuits with filling or fruit juices have high sugar content. Frequent consumption causes tooth decay. Nuts, cheese and yogurt naturally sweetened with fruits are better choices.



Brush your child's teeth once they emerge (~6 months).*
Floss where teeth contact each other.
Regularly lift child's upper lip to check for tooth decay.



* Due to concern for dental fluorosis, use of a smear amount (size of a rice grain) of 1000ppm fluoride (F) toothpaste for children < 3 years old should be limited to those at high-risk for dental caries.