

NESD HEAD START

TOOTH BRUSHING PROCEDURE

Toothbrushes should be replaced every **3 months**, or sooner if the bristles are flattened or contaminated (ie: through contact with another brush, used by another child, or after an illness).

1. Gloves should be worn during this procedure.
2. Staff will place a pea-sized amount of toothpaste for each student on a paper plate.
3. Staff will put the toothpaste on the brush and hand the toothbrush to the student. Staff will monitor and assist the child with brushing their teeth. Do not rinse mouth.
4. After the student has been supervised in brushing their teeth the student should rinse the toothbrush thoroughly with water and shake off excess.
5. Staff will return rinsed toothbrush to the clean toothbrush holder to air dry.
6. Repeat the procedure for each student.
7. Clean and sanitize the toothbrush holder weekly at centers and monthly at home base.
8. **For Home Base** follow steps 1-7. Place the toothbrush holder out of reach of the children. When group is over, the staff will place the toothbrush back in the holder for storage until the next group. Toothbrushes will be replaced twice yearly and as needed.
9. Keep a supply of extra toothbrushes in your stock for replacements.