

## Legal mandate

### SBG VIII / KJHG Child and Youth Services

**§ 1 Para. 1** "Right to the promotion of development and education into an independent and socialized personality"

**§ 16 Para. 2 (1)** [...]strengthen families in their health competence,

**§ 22 et seq.** Family-supplementing education, up-bringing, and care in daycare for children

### Child Day Care Act BW

**§ 2a (3)** The promotion [...] takes place under consideration of the objectives of the orientation plan



### Orientation Plan for education and upbringing (pp. 28.)

Ministry of Education,  
Youth and Sports  
Baden-Württemberg

### Goals for the education and development field "body"

Children acquire knowledge about their bodies and develop an initial understanding of how to care for, regulate and keep their bodies healthy.

- A1** Regular rituals accompany meals and support body care Children regularly learn and practice techniques for caring for their own bodies
- D1** The facility pays attention to the dental health of the children

Further information also available for download at: [www.kindergaerten-bw.de/Lde/Startseite/Fruehe+Bildung/Material\\_Orientierungsplan](http://www.kindergaerten-bw.de/Lde/Startseite/Fruehe+Bildung/Material_Orientierungsplan)

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## Important. Brushing teeth together every day

Information for professionals



Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft  
für Zahngesundheit  
Baden-Württemberg e.V.



## Pedagogical professionals are role models!

As caregivers in daycare centers, they play a key role in promoting dental health behavior.

**Professionals support this when they brush their own teeth together with "their" children every day as a matter of course (learning integrated into everyday life)!**

**Rituals** provide orientation and structures of reliability.

**Curiosity** enables investigative and playful exploration.

**Confirmation** through personal praise of individual children reinforces correct behavior.

**The children's social backgrounds** should be taken into account.

The promotion of health integrated into everyday life should be conceptually anchored in the facility as an educational goal and implemented through the ritualization of daily tooth brushing, the promotion of oral health, e.g. through projects, regular visits by prophylaxis specialists, and the support and topic-specific consultation of parents.

## Parents are responsible

Parents' educational responsibility also includes their responsibility for children's oral health. Parents should brush their children's teeth in the morning and evening. Even if children are introduced to brushing from the first baby tooth, parents are fundamentally responsible for ensuring that children's teeth are cleaned.

Daycare centers as family-supplementing care and educational institutions promote the physical development and health of the child and support the parents in this effort. This can be achieved in the facilities by brushing the teeth together every day.

**However, day care centers cannot take over parental responsibility by taking over or implementing health measures.**

**The pedagogical staff are not responsible for teaching and practicing tooth brushing techniques with the children and for brushing the children's teeth.**



## Why brushing teeth is so important

Oral health has a major impact on children's healthy and social development. In addition to the risk of developing caries and the associated effects on physical health, it is significant for nutritional behavior and language development.

In Germany, 13.7 % of 3-year-old children are already affected by caries. By the time they start school, only 53.8 % of children have healthy teeth. The incidence of caries is clearly concentrated in the population group with the lowest educational status<sup>1</sup>. Early childhood caries must also be understood as a social disease.

**Promoting oral health in early childhood is an important contribution to equal opportunities.**

For a tooth-healthy development, children should brush their teeth twice a day. Supporting parents in this is in line with the legal mandate of daycare and is a significant aspect of child development promotion.

<sup>1</sup> cf. Health Report 2015, DAJ Study 2016