

Oral Healthcare for Individuals with Disabilities

The oral health and hygiene needs of individuals with disabilities are very different. Many times, these individuals can be successfully seen in a general practice office. The role of the Direct Support Professional (DSP) becomes especially important when scheduling appointments and assisting with daily oral health care.



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Oral Care

- To promote good oral hygiene, DSPs should:
 - support individuals with brushing after every meal
 - assist with flossing at least once a day (before bedtime) to prevent plaque build up and bad breath
 - report any dental concerns (pain, bleeding, broken or missing teeth) to the nurse immediately
 - follow specific oral care protocols for the individuals you support



Oral Health

- It is important to recognize that many of the individuals you support may have had past traumatic experiences with dentists. In order to ensure successful dental visits, we must:
 - do our best to communicate with our individuals
 - help them to feel comfortable
 - inform them of the date and time of the appointment and the procedure that will take place (get specific information from the dentist so that you can tell them)
 - reassure them that going to the dentist will keep their teeth clean and healthy

