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.
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