

New online training

Early childhood oral health: case studies from general practice

Tooth decay is one of the most common disorders in childhood, yet it is mostly preventable. A particularly damaging form, *early childhood caries* (ECC) is a serious dental condition occurring during the preschool years of a child's life when developing primary ('baby') teeth are especially vulnerable. If treated early, ECC can be reversed. Screening for ECC involves simply lifting the upper lip to check the front teeth first, and then having a quick look inside at the back teeth.



Healthy Teeth



White lines along the gum line (reversible)



Advanced tooth decay (no longer reversible)



Early childhood oral health management skills are the focus of a new online learning activity from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

The activity, *Early childhood oral health: case studies from general practice* is available on the *gplearning* website (www.racgp.org.au) and on the Clin-ed website (www.clined.com.au). Developed in conjunction with the Centre for Oral Health Strategy, NSW, the activity supports general practitioners and practice nurses to effectively perform their critical role in identifying, preventing and managing early childhood caries.

Referrals to public oral health services for children aged 0-5 years identified as at risk of, or having signs of, early childhood caries, can be made using a GP Referral form: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/cohs/pdf/gp_referral_form.pdf.

For further information on the NSW Early Childhood Oral Health Program, visit: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/cohs/resources.asp>

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