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Dear Parents/Carers,

Starting Well: A Smile4Life Initiative

Last year NHS England launched Starting Well: A Smile4Life Initiative. This programme of dental practice-based initiatives aims to improve oral health in children under the age of five years. Luton was chosen as one of 13 high priority areas to be part of the national Starting Well initiative, due to the high levels of dental decay experienced in Luton children. 37.6% of 5 year olds in Luton have dental decay (which is significantly higher than the national average).

Tooth decay causes pain and discomfort and can have a significant impact on health and well-being. Tooth decay is preventable and dental practises are working with families to raise awareness of the importance of looking after baby teeth and overcoming barriers to visiting a dentist, which is recommended by one year of age.

If you have not yet registered your child at a dental practice then I would urge you to do so as soon as possible and follow this up this with regular six-monthly check-ups. For your information, I am attaching some very useful information "12 Top tips for teeth" and a list of dental practices which are participating in the Smile4Life initiative.

If you need any further information regarding dental care or, indeed, help or support with any other issues, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Yours sincerely

Lois Robins

Lois Robins
Assistant Family Worker

Luton

Grasmere Nursery is an Ofsted Outstanding School
Baby & Toddler Unit is graded Good

