

Action Plan

for dental emergencies

- **Most children under the age of 5 will have baby teeth only**
- **All injuries to the mouth should be checked by a dental professional as soon as possible**

Bitten tongue or lip

- Apply a cold compress/pressure to reduce bleeding and swelling using a clean cloth. If bleeding continues, seek dental or medical advice

If a tooth is knocked out

Baby teeth

- Baby teeth should **not** be put back into the mouth
- Place the tooth in milk and transport it and the child to a dental professional as soon as possible

Permanent teeth

- Immediately replace the tooth in the socket and apply finger pressure. If necessary, continue to hold the tooth in position
- Seek immediate dental treatment
- Try not to touch the root of the tooth - pick the tooth up by the crown
- If the tooth is dirty, rinse it in milk. If not immediately available rinse in saline solution – do not rinse with water
- Replace the tooth and seek immediate dental advice
- If the tooth can't be found, transport the patient to a dental professional while others continue to search. If found, put the tooth in milk if possible and transport it to the dental clinic



If teeth are broken

- Place any broken pieces of tooth in milk and seek dental advice as soon as possible
- If no milk is available, wrap the tooth in plastic wrap for transportation

Do not:

- Rinse the tooth in water
- Scrape or rub the root surface
- Allow the tooth to dry
- Delay seeking dental treatment / advice

School and Community Dental Service Clinics are located in metropolitan and country areas of South Australia and provide free dental care to all children from birth to the end of primary school. Secondary school students up to the age of 18 years can receive care by paying an annual fee. Eligible student cardholders can receive care free of charge. Look in the White Pages under Dental - SA Dental Service, School and Community Dental Clinics for your local clinic phone number and an after hours emergency number.

For further information contact:

South Australian Dental Service 8222 8222
Australian Dental Association 8272 8111