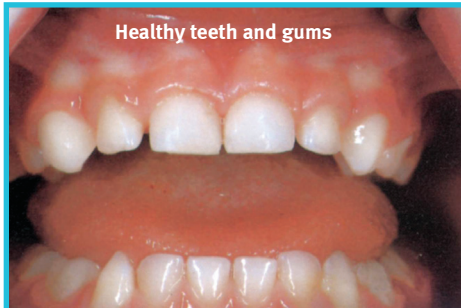




# Lift the Lip

## Referral pathway for health professionals



Healthy teeth and gums

Healthy teeth

Referral is optional

Advise parent/carer to:

- Lift their child's lip regularly to check for early signs of tooth decay
- Brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste – **spit out the paste, but do not rinse**
- Encourage healthy food and drink choices, that are low in sugar
- Choose fluoridated tap water as the preferred drink

Arrange a dental appointment for your child by age two years.



White lines along the gumline

**Early signs of decay:**  
White lines along the gumline.  
May be reversible if treated early.

Referral is needed



Advancing decay

**More advanced decay:** Can look like brown spots on the teeth that do not wipe off. Cavitation is obvious.

Referral is needed



Dental abscess

**Advanced decay:** If swelling or infection is present consider a medical referral first.

Immediate referral

- The health professional will inform the parent/guardian that their child would benefit from a dental appointment.
- If the parent/guardian consents, a referral is to be made to Metro North or Metro South Oral Health Services. Contact will be made with the parent to make an appointment.
- Oral Health Services in the metropolitan area offer free\* dental treatment for all children under 18 years of age referred by CYCHS - Child Health Service.

\* Some dental treatments are not offered via the public sector. All parents must present their Medicare card for bulk billing.

Complete the referral form and email to [lifthehelip@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:lifthehelip@health.qld.gov.au) On receipt of the referral form, Oral Health Services will then contact the parent/guardian to arrange a dental appointment at a local Metro North or Metro South dental clinic.

Feedback to the health professional will occur via preferred contact details listed on the referral form when the child completes their dental care, fails to attend the scheduled appointment, or the parent/guardian can not be contacted.

Metro North and Metro South Oral Health Services welcome all children 0 to 17 years of age referred by CYCHS - Child Health Service. For more information contact Oral Health Services.

Phone: 1300 300 850

[www.health.qld.gov.au/metronorth/oral-health](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/metronorth/oral-health)



A joint initiative between Metro North and Metro South Hospital and Health Services and Children's Health Queensland.  
Adapted with permission from Oral Health Services Tasmania.