

# Lift the Lip – Screening and Referral Pathway Tool



Healthy Teeth

**NO REFERRAL NEEDED**

Encourage parent/guardian to make child a dental appointment.



Early Stage Decay

**REFERRAL NEEDED**

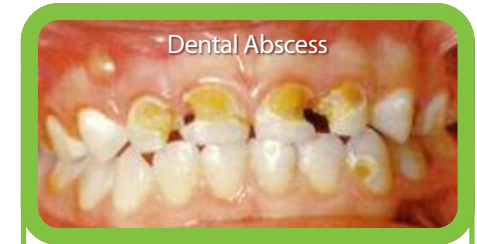
This may be reversible if treated early.



More Advanced Decay

**REFERRAL NEEDED**

Brown spots that don't wipe off and obvious cavitation.



Advanced Decay

**IMMEDIATE REFERRAL**

If swelling or infection is present consider a medical referral first.

**Advise parents/guardian to:**

- Lift their child's lip regularly to check for early signs of tooth decay.
- Brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste from 18 months of age, and to spit out the toothpaste and not rinse.
- Encourage healthy food and drink choices, that are low in sugar.
- Choose fluoridated tap water as the preferred drink.

**The health professional will inform the Parent/Guardian that:**

- Their child would benefit from a dental appointment with Oral Health Services Tasmania (OHST) or a Private Dentist.
- If the parent/guardian consents a referral will be made to OHST. OHST will contact the parent/guardian to make an appointment.
- OHST offers FREE\* dental treatment for ALL children under 18 years of age.  
\*Dental care is FREE if parents present their Medicare Card for bulk billing.

**Parent/Guardian Chooses Private Dentist**

Advise parent/guardian that a dental referral is required and they should seek treatment with a private dentist.

**Parent/Guardian Chooses Oral Health Services Tasmania**

Complete the referral advice form and email to [liftthelip@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:liftthelip@dhhs.tas.gov.au)  
On receipt of the referral advice form, OHST will then contact the parent/guardian to arrange a dental appointment at a local OHST dental clinic.

Feedback to health professional will be when: the child completes their dental care, fails to attend the scheduled appointment or parent can not be contacted.

OHST-CA-073 v6-March 2020