

ANIMAL TEETH STORYTIME!

(Dental Health) – Children’s and Family Program

Promote child dental health with a storytime featuring shark or animal teeth! Scale this program down to a single storytime or consider partnerships to create an oral health fair for kids and families.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Storytime Songs

- Brush your Teeth (adapted from Brush Your Teeth by Raffi Cavoukian)
- “When you wake up in the morning at a quarter to eight
The first thing you do is something great
You brush your teeth ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch
You brush your teeth ch ch ch ch, ch ch ch ch
(repeat)
- Brush our Teeth (to the tune of Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush)
“This is the way we brush our teeth
brush our teeth, brush our teeth
This is the way we brush our teeth
so early in the morning.”
(repeat)

Activities

- Start program with your favorite story about animals with unique teeth.
- Consider adding practices from [sensory storytimes](#) like a visual schedule.
- Explore how different cultures experience tooth loss with *Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions from Around the World*.
- Consider including stories about beasts of the oceans with shark titles like *Nugget and Fang* and *If Sharks Disappeared*.
- Select a puppet with large teeth like a shark or walrus. Purchase a giant toothbrush and demonstrate good brushing habits during a storytime song.

MATERIALS

- Storytime materials like books, whiteboard, large toothbrush, puppet with teeth
- Dental Health informational handouts for caregivers
- Art supplies (optional activity)

PERSONNEL

- 1-2 library staff
- Optional: Partner with a local dentist or oral health association

SPACE

- Online or when possible in a library meeting space.

TIP:

Consider using white board art to help children match pictures to words/actions. For example, you could draw a mouth on the whiteboard and erase colored in sections to demonstrate cleaning food and plaque from teeth.

TIP:

Consider offering the songs as guides for how long to brush teeth, miming on your own face or on a puppet. For example: “We’re going to sing our song two times, one for top teeth and one for our bottom teeth”.

- Play the [Mammal Teeth Guessing Game](#) from the American Museum of Natural History. Or make your own by using examples from photos of teeth from humans and animals.
- Offer simple craft using dental coloring pages from the [ADA's Mouth Healthy](#) website.

TIP:

For younger groups, consider using “human or animal”, for older try including more categories, as appropriate.

RESOURCES

Partners

- There are many dental health organizations that provide free information and materials, including toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Children's Nonfiction

- Beeler, Selby and G. Brian Karas. *Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions from Around the World*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2001. 978-0618152384.
- Less, Emma. *Dentists (Real-life Superheroes)*. Amicus Ink, 2018. 978-1681522746.
- Rudko, Che. *Ready, Set, Brush*. SFI Readerlink, 2018. 978-0794440633.
- Seuss, Dr. *The Tooth Book*. Penguin Random House, 1981. 978-0375824920.
- Steig, William. *Doctor De Soto*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1982. 978-0312611897.
- Williams, Lily. *If Sharks Disappeared*. Roaring Book Press, 2017. 978-1626724136.

Children's Fiction

- Dahl, Michael. *Pony Brushes His Teeth*. Picture Window Books. 2010. 978-1404857278.
- Jarvis, Alan's *Big Scary Teeth*. Candlewick Press. 2016 978-0763681203.
- Sauer, Tammi and Michael Slack. *Nugget and Fang*. Turtleback Books, 2015. 978-0606368254.
- Suen, Anastasia. *Loose Tooth*. Puffin Books. 2003. 978-0142500644.
- Ziefert, Harriet and Emily Bolam. *Does a Tiger Go to the Dentist?* Blue Apple Books, 2014. 978-1609054519.

Web

- [Resources for Public Libraries](#) from the NNLM includes health information and programming resources, webinars, and funding opportunities.
- [MedlinePlus: Child dental health](#) – Health information from the National Library of Medicine.
- [American Dental Association: Activities and Resources](#)

Games

- [Toothsavers Brushing Game](#) - Save the fairy tale kingdom with your toothbrush!

EVALUATION

[Project Outcome](#) is a free toolkit from the Public Library Association designed to help public libraries understand and share the impact of essential library services and programs by providing simple surveys and an easy-to-use process for measuring and analyzing outcomes.

