

# #HappyTeeth

Happy Teeth: a fun and interactive oral health project  
for childminders and their minded children in your own setting

## Why is the Happy Teeth project important?

More than half of children in Scotland have suffered with tooth decay:

1. **Tooth decay is number one reason that a child in Scotland is admitted to hospital.**
2. **56% of children in deprived areas have suffered from tooth decay.**
3. **45% of children with tooth decay are below the age of five.**
4. **In serious cases, all teeth are required to be removed.**
5. **Tooth decay can cause other issues, e.g. stress, depression and confidence problems.**

Research from the National Dental Inspection Programme (NDIP) in 2020 highlighted that the percentage of primary 1 children in Scotland with no obvious tooth decay is 74%, which is a significant reduction due to the national [Childsmile](#) programme in Scotland.

It has become apparent that tooth decay is essentially a disease associated with social deprivation - and in Scotland, lower levels of tooth decay are now being seen in more affluent areas.

*The following information is from the recent NDIP 2020 report:*

### What percentage of P1 children in Scotland had no obvious decay experience?

There has been a sharp improvement from 2003 to 2012, rising from 45% to 67% of P1 children free from obvious decay. Since 2014 a more gradual improvement in the oral health of P1 children in Scotland has been evident, with 74% having no obvious decay experience in 2020. This is due to the National Childsmile Programme Toothbrushing Programmes.

### Is there a link between area-based socio-economic deprivation and poor oral health in P1 children?

Across Scotland, socio-economic inequalities in the oral health of P1 children remain; percentages with no obvious decay experience range from 58% for children in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) most deprived quintile (SIMD1), to 87% for those in the least deprived quintile (SIMD5). The percentage point difference in values between SIMD1 and SIMD5 has remained at around 30 percentage points over the past five reports for P1 children.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the National Dental Inspection Programme (NDIP) Report 2020 in full.

For more information and updates, you may also find [Scottish Dental](#) a useful resource.

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committed to quality childcare

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