



NEW GUIDANCE ON INFANT FEEDING



Updated guidance¹ on feeding in the first year of life published in July by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) has been welcomed by the British Society of

Paediatric Dentistry.

Professor Emeritus Andrew Rugg-Gunn (pictured), BSPD's expert and a former member of the SACN panel, commented: 'I welcome this report and the inclusion of the chapter on oral health, rightly emphasising its importance in the general development of infants.'

'Both BSPD and I were delighted to have been given the opportunity to provide input, ensuring that this document is representative and that all concerned with children's oral health can speak with one voice.'

The report *'Feeding in the First Year of Life'* states that breastfeeding up to 12 months has oral health benefits and is associated with a decreased risk of dental caries. It goes on to mention that some limited observational evidence suggests that once the primary teeth erupt, factors such as breastfeeding on demand,

nocturnal feeding and sleeping with the breast in the mouth may be associated with increased risk of dental caries.

BSPD President Claire Stevens says: 'It's valuable for all organisations working in the interests of children's health to be aware that long-term and on demand breast feeding may be a risk factor for Early Childhood Caries, as highlighted in our own position statement². More research is needed and we look forward to further guidance from SACN on feeding children after the age of one.'

'In the meantime, we are delighted that BSPD's Dental Check by One campaign gets a mention. PHE and Jenny Godson in particular have been very supportive of Dental Check by One, a valuable strategy for exposing families to early preventive advice and getting children onto the best start to their oral health journey.'

Turn to page 13 for an article providing an overview of the new guidance by hygienist Juliette Reeves.

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/feeding-in-the-first-year-of-life-sacn-report>
2. <https://www.bspd.co.uk/Resources/Position-Statement>

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PAY-OUTS FOR SACKED DENTAL NURSES

Two dental nurses from Essex were awarded pay-outs of more than £7000 each by an employment tribunal in August. Both dental nurses, who had been working for the same Clacton dental practice for four years, have children and were working part-time when they were made redundant.

Unite the Union took their case to the tribunal which awarded Jessica Rowley £8159 and Billy-Jo Janes £7500. The judge presiding at the hearing said they had been subjected to 'unlawful indirect sex discrimination' because of their part-time status. Their pay-outs included £6000 with £498 interest for 'injury to feelings for unlawful indirect sex discrimination'. The remaining sum was for loss of earnings and statutory rights.

Hazel Coey, President of the British Association of Dental Nurses, said: 'We are shocked that dental practices are still, in 2018, discriminating against female employees in this way – especially given that more than 98% of registered dental nurses are female. We will be inviting both the BDA and CODE to work with us to ensure that dental employers are made aware both of the rights of part time employees, and that gender discrimination is not acceptable in today's working environment.'

While this case was taken to a tribunal by Unite, BADN has a legal helpline so that members who find themselves in a similar situation can call and get advice on their rights as part time workers.

Turn to page 19 for a longer article on part-time working.



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BADN AND ONG COLLABORATE FOR CONFERENCE



The Orthodontic National Group (ONG), the organisation of orthodontic nurses and therapists, and the British Association of Dental Nurses are pleased to announce that ONG members can now benefit

from special discounted rates at the National Dental Nursing Conference to be

held at the Grand Hotel Blackpool on 16 and 17 November 2018.

The discount for ONG members was agreed following a meeting between the ONG President Debra Worthington (pictured) and BADN CEO Pam Swain. The conference includes presentations on counterfeit equipment and materials and how to spot them, head and neck cancer, alcohol awareness training for dental teams, sepsis, oral health care for the homeless and those in recovery, LGBTQ issues, communities in practice and a GDC Update. More information can be found in Diary Dates on page 4.