

« torch – kids usually copy even if only for a very small look. At this point lots of praise and then reinforce educational messages.

Recall time for young child patient check-ups at your practice: Six months unless high risk – eg sibling high caries rate or blackcurrant juice in a bottle when they enter the surgery – in that case three month checks.

Do you agree with the BSPD campaign to make ‘Dental Check by age One’ the norm for all children in the UK? If there was a surplus of supply of NHS dental care, meaning it’s available (and maybe even a choice!) for anyone who wants it, then it would be a great idea. But only providing sufficient funding to see just over half of the population tells you that this isn’t the case. There is a severe shortfall in supply in this area. So no, it is a bad idea and risks developing resentment from adult patients who have great need but can’t access care.

Do you think it is realistic to see all patients by age one? As a marketing plan for getting families through the door it is a great idea. But if we are asking people to bring their under ones whilst telling them that we can’t see anyone else in the family unless they pay privately then this will not go down well. Look at it from a busy mother’s perspective. She has a six-month-old baby and we say of course we’ll see your child who is only just getting their first tooth, but awfully sorry your toothache can only be seen at the local urgent dental care clinic as we don’t have any space here for new adult patients.



Nicole Sturzenbaum
Principal dentist

Type of practice: Children’s private practice.

Do you accept new child patients at your practice? Yes.

At what age do you accept new child patients? From six months onwards, or earlier if needed.

How do you approach a first appointment with a young child? Very young children (under 18 months) are often quite easy to deal with, especially with our TVs on the ceiling (showing child friendly cartoons). If the children are already at an age where they can communicate (2+), then we use our puppet, with the tell, show and do approach.

What do you discuss with a child’s parent/guardian at that first appointment? Medical history (risk factors), brushing habits, diet (bottle feeding, breastfeeding) and we do a tooth brushing school if the children are cooperative enough/showing the parents how to brush. It’s all about educating the parents and the child to prevent decay and giving the children a positive attitude towards their teeth and the dentist.

What do you do if the young child refuses to cooperate/open their mouth? If the children are very young we do the exam on the

knee of the parents, which usually works well. If the children are older we give them choices of where to have the exam (maybe on a normal chair instead of the dental chair) or we let them do the exam on mum or a doll first. Step by step we built up a rapport. Behaviour management techniques in different ways should be in constant use when approaching a child in the dental chair and all dentists should have basic training in it.

Recall time for young child patient check-ups at your practice: 3–6 months depending on the caries risk.

Do you agree with the BSPD campaign to make ‘Dental Check by age One’ the norm? Do you think it is realistic to see all patients by age one? Yes, I agree with the campaign and I think it is realistic.

Any other comments: I support the campaign and think with campaigns like this it’s all about changing the attitude of parents towards the dental need of their children. At the moment it’s all about treating teeth if pain or damage already has happened, but what we need is prophylaxis, so all children see their dentist on a regular basis to prevent decay/damage and anxiety in the first place.

1. BDJ Upfront. UK dentists urged to see children by age one. *Br Dent J* 2017; **222**: 916.
2. Royal College of Surgeons. *80% of 1 to 2-year-olds didn’t visit an NHS dentist last year*. 8 June 2017. Available at: <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/news-and-events/media-centre/press-releases/toddler-dental-visit-story/> (accessed June 2017).
3. change4life. Be Food Smart app. Available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life-beta/be-food-smart#zyliVYehMhd-8goA4.97> (accessed June 2017).

Honours, awards, appointments

Queen’s Birthday Honours

Five dentists have received awards in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list:

OBE

Ms Dawn Ailsa Adams, Clinical Director, Public Dental Service, NHS Fife. For services to dentistry.

Professor Nigel Peter Hunt, Head of Orthodontic Department, Eastman Dental Institute, University College London. For services to dentistry and orthodontics.

Mrs Margaret Katherine Ross, lately Senior Lecturer for Dental Care Professionals, University of Edinburgh. For services to dentistry.

MBE

Dr Serbjit Kaur, dentist, Leicestershire. For services to dentistry.

BEM

Dr Linda Helene Greenwall, dentist, Hampstead Healthcare Ltd. For services to the dental profession in the UK and abroad.

Workshop for new writers and peer reviewers

The *BDJ* will once again be supporting an all day workshop of the British Dental Editors Forum for new writers and peer reviewers. New this year will be a separate afternoon session for those specifically interested in peer review. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 25 October 2017 at the BDA, 64 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8YS. The cost is £40 (£20 for full-time students) to include lunch and refreshments and will attract five hours of CPD. Further details are available from Stephen Hancocks (stephen.hancocks@bda.org).