

Bad teeth top reason for children in hospital

16th July, 2014



Tooth decay is the biggest reason for children in the UK going to hospital.

Britain's National Health Service (NHS) just reported that

500 children a week end up in hospital because of sugary drinks and poor dental hygiene. The NHS said fruit juice and fizzy drinks (sodas) are the biggest reason why so many kids end up in hospital. Researchers found that more than 25,000 children needed to have teeth extracted last year. More worrying is the fact that some children had all 20 of their milk teeth removed because of tooth decay. Most kids needed four to eight teeth removed. Researchers say the sugary drinks and fruit juices are also leading to higher levels of obesity in kids.

The report is from the Health and Social Care Information Centre. It found that the number of children aged between zero and four going to hospital to have teeth out has increased from 8,060 in 2011 to 8,758 last year. Children's dentist Kathryn Harley said that children are going to hospital for several reasons. One is that their teeth are very painful. Another reason is that the tooth is too decayed for dentists to save it. A final reason is the child has too many decayed teeth that need to be removed. In all of these cases, children need a general anaesthetic – an injection that puts them to sleep. A health expert told parents to ban fruit juice and fizzy drinks and just give water to their children.

Sources: *Daily Mail / Belfast Telegraph / The Guardian*

Writing

Children should never drink sodas and fizzy drinks. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

reason / hospital / sugary drinks / dental hygiene / hospital / teeth extracted / obesity / social care / painful / dentists / anaesthetic / injection / fruit juice / water

True / False

- The article is about children in the USA. T / F
- Around 500 children a week go to hospital because of tooth decay. T / F
- Over 25,000 children in the UK had teeth pulled out last year. T / F
- Researchers said fruit juice is good at helping children lose weight. T / F
- The number of three-year-olds going to hospital has decreased. T / F
- A children's dentist said there were several reasons for this problem. T / F
- Many children need an operation to have their teeth removed. T / F
- A health expert said parents should continue to give children juice. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. reason | a. gone up |
| 2. end up | b. pulled out |
| 3. hygiene | c. last |
| 4. extracted | d. finish |
| 5. leading to | e. numerous |
| 6. increased | f. cause |
| 7. several | g. instances |
| 8. final | h. cleanliness |
| 9. cases | i. specialist |
| 10. expert | j. resulting in |

Discussion – Student A

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'tooth'?
- Are your teeth in good condition?
- Do you like going to the dentist?
- What do you do to take care of your teeth?
- What childhood experiences do you have of the dentist?
- Should parents limit how much fruit juice kids have?
- What do you think of so many children having teeth problems?
- Should governments ban fizzy drinks?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. end up | a. have teeth extracted |
| 2. poor dental | b. them to sleep |
| 3. 25,000 children needed to | c. of obesity in kids |
| 4. some children had all 20 of their milk | d. zero and four |
| 5. leading to higher levels | e. decayed |
| 6. children aged between | f. hygiene |
| 7. children are going to hospital for several | g. expert |
| 8. the tooth is too | h. in hospital |
| 9. an injection that puts | i. reasons |
| 10. health | j. teeth removed |

Discussion – Student B

- Will scientists find something to stop tooth decay one day?
- What do you do if you have a toothache?
- What's the worst thing for your teeth?
- How sad is it when a tooth is removed?
- Why don't parents stop their children's teeth getting bad?
- What should companies do to make fizzy drinks safer?
- Would children accept having just water?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Spelling

- Tooth ydace is the biggest reason
- ysruag drinks
- poor dental einheyg
- have teeth drectxate
- higher seellv
- sieoybt in kids
- health and aclsio care
- encdraies from 8,060
- going to hospital for erelvsa reasons
- children need a negrlea anaesthetic
- an teijcnoni that puts them to sleep
- A health ptexre

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. h	4. b	5. j
6. a	7. e	8. c	9. g	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Cola

You think cola is the worst thing for your teeth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): cotton candy, poor teeth-brushing or grinding teeth.

Role B – Cotton candy

You think cotton candy is the worst thing for your teeth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): cola, poor teeth-brushing or grinding teeth.

Role C – Poor teeth-brushing

You think poor teeth-brushing is the worst thing for your teeth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): cotton candy, cola or grinding teeth.

Role D – Grinding teeth

You think grinding teeth is the worst thing for your teeth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the least harmful of these (and why): cotton candy, poor teeth-brushing or cola.

Speaking – Tooth decay

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst things for your teeth at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| • cola | • candies |
| • chocolate | • coffee |
| • cotton candy | • toffee |
| • fruit juice | • ice cream |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.