



Little Chomper

Owl - John Sweeney: Preschool 1

Background

In the Preschool 1 room at Owl-John Sweeney, we started a project on teeth beginning February 5, 2018 and ended March 29, 2018. The children in the class are aged 2.5-4 years old. The staff in the room are Ashley O'Connor, RECE, Jessica Rau, RECE, Shamini Jude, RECE and Emily Burns, RECE

Phase 1: Beginning the Project

On February 5th, our project began. It all started with the love of eating, the children started to pretend their babies were eating, the puppet hippo was eating, the dinosaurs were eating and then they started to question how could the hippo eat with only 3 teeth? Why did the dinosaur have so many teeth? How come the baby didn't have teeth but we did? Therefore, we set of to explore the white bones inside our mouth.

What we know about Teeth?

- No Biting – Max (4yrs)
- For my mouth – Michael (2.5 yrs)
- We eat popcorn with our teeth – Scarlett S (3 yrs)
- My teeth are for my teething ring and for biting other things – Liam (3yrs)
- Sharks have strong, big teeth – Landon (3yrs)

What we want to know?

- Let's learn about shark teeth – Jacob (2.5 yrs)
- About going to the dentist – Lucian (3yrs)
- Will my teeth fall out – Scarlett N (3 yrs)
- Is my tooth the same as a shark tooth – Colton (3 yrs)
- Do fish have teeth – Landon (3yrs)
- What happens if your teeth get rotten – Landon(3yrs)

Whom can we ask?

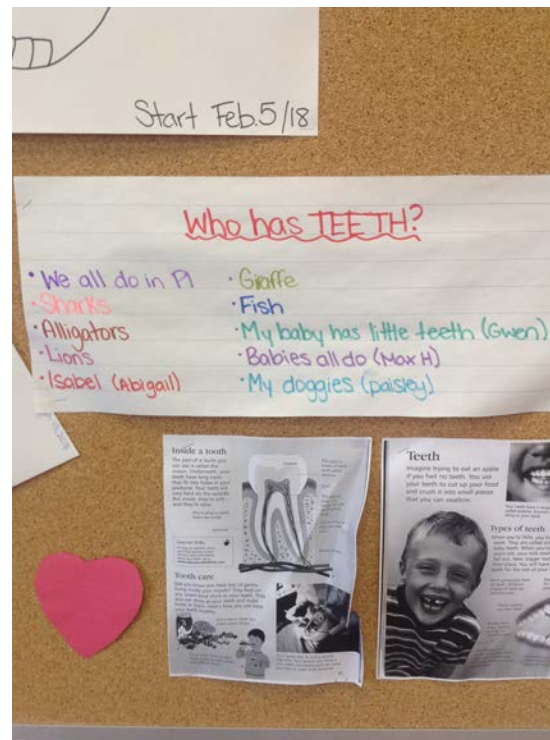
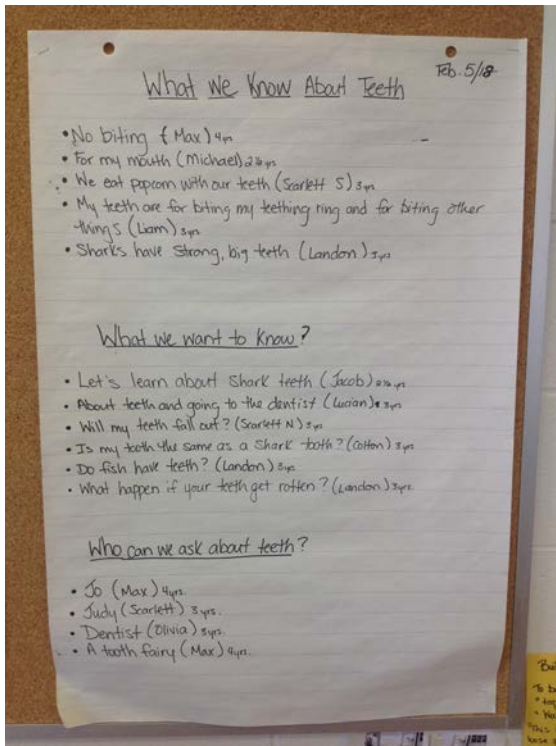
- Jo – Max (4yrs)
- Judy – Scarlett S (3yrs)
- Dentist – Olivia (3yrs)
- A Tooth Fairy – Max (4yrs)

Whom has teeth?

- We all do in Preschool 1
- Sharks
- Alligators
- Lions
- Isabel – Abigail (3yrs)
- Giraffe
- Fish
- Babies do – Max (4yrs)
- My doggies – Paisley (3years)

How do we keep our teeth healthy?

- Eating Veggies – Scarlett S
- Brushing them
- Use toothpaste – Max
- Drink milk
- Go to the dentist



Phase 2: Developing the Project

Questionnaire:

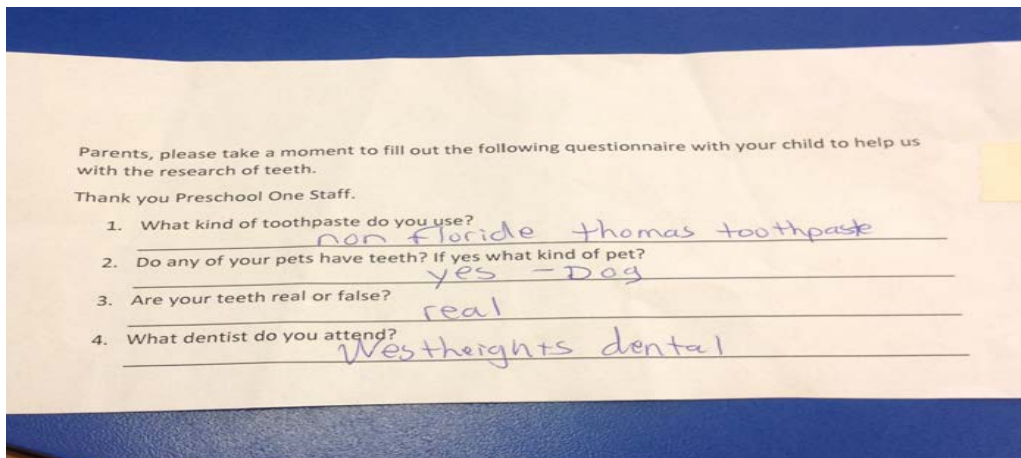
We questioned the children as to what they wanted know from our parents. As educators, we then typed the following questions up and sent them home for parents to fill out with their child and then we charted our responses. The questions were:

1. What kind of toothpaste do you use?
2. Do any of your pets have teeth? If yes what kind of pet?
3. Are your teeth real or fake?
4. What dentist do you go to?

As the results were coming back, we found there were many different answers to the toothpaste question as the parents asked them what kind they use. We saw many answers such as “paw patrol”, “hippo”, “Thomas”, “Ninja turtles”, “cars”, “chocolate donut and strawberries” were popping up on every page, the children were very excited to express they have their favourite character toothpaste. Many of our children went to the same dentist. Popular ones were Smile Town Dentistry, Dr. Matthew Vasiga and West heights Dental. As for the teeth, everyone’s were REAL! Colgate was the top toothpaste used at home and seven of our peers had dogs at home with teeth!

Below are the results of the factual answers:

Toothpaste	Pet
Aquafresh: 1	Dogs: 7
Colgate: 8	Cat: 1
Non-Floride: 2	Bird – But no teeth (Skylar)
Crest: 4	No pets but monkeys and sharks (Norah)
Orajel: 2	
Nuk: 1	
Kios: 1	



Parents, please take a moment to fill out the following questionnaire with your child to help us with the research of teeth.

Thank you Preschool One Staff.

1. What kind of toothpaste do you use?
non floride thomas toothpaste
2. Do any of your pets have teeth? If yes what kind of pet?
yes - Dog
3. Are your teeth real or false?
real
4. What dentist do you attend?
Westheights dental

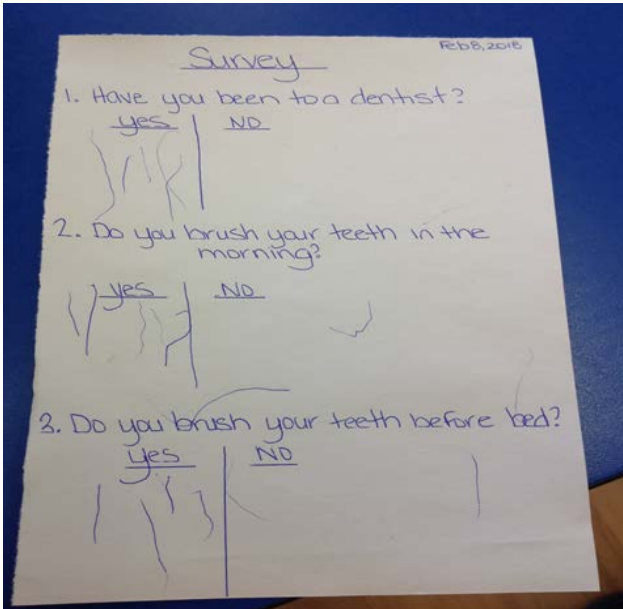
Survey:

On February 8th we took to our centre. After we had answers from our parents, we wanted to survey some of the staff in our centre. The children came up with the following questions:

1. Have you been to a dentist? (Scarlett S)
2. Do you brush your teeth in the morning? (Max)
3. Do you brush your teeth before bed? (Lincoln)

Gwen wanted to ask Simone, Scarlett S wanted to ask Judy, Lincoln was curious as to what Deb in the kitchen would answer and Max and Paisley wanted to ask Jo and Kelley. Therefore, we hit the halls with our clipboard and pens to find out! The results were in:

1. 5 – Yes 0 – No
2. 5 – Yes 0 – No
3. 4 – Yes 1 – No



Vocabulary:

We asked the children what they believed the meaning of some of the commonly known words associated to teeth were. We asked the definitions of teeth, gums, cavity, toothpaste, decay and dentist. These were the results:

Teeth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For our mouth – Paisley • The wiggly in my mouth – Spencer • Cavities – Max • In your mouth to fall out – Olivia
Gums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For my teeth – Paisley • Gummy Bears – Scarlett N and Spencer • Candy – Landon • Treats – Max • Gummies – Kolton • Something you eat – Olivia
Cavity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your teeth are sick – Max • A hole in your teeth – Scarlett S • A lion – Paisley • Teething – Lincoln • Mud – Jacob • It's in your neck – Landon • When your tooth falls out and the fairy comes – Olivia
Toothpaste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You brush your teeth – Max • You put it on a toothbrush – Scarlett S • When you want to brush your teeth – Spencer • To brush our teeth – Scarlett N • You brush your teeth – Landon • For brushing your teeth – Olivia
Decay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teeth Balls – Kolton • A truck – Jacob • Blocks – Paisley • Your teeth are rotten – Landon • When something goes bad and your friend helps you – Olivia
Dentist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A office – Enoch • He fixes our teeth – Scarlett N • Get needles – Kolton • He's near me – Scarlett S • For fixing our teeth – Olivia • At the hospital – Lincoln • If your teeth fall out – Landon • I went but I don't know what he does – Max



Vocabulary Feb 7, 2018

TEETH: For our mouth (Paisley)
The wiggly in my mouth (Spencer)
Cavities (Max)
In your mouth to fall out (Olivia)

GUMS: For my teeth (Paisley) Gummy Bears (Scarlett N)
Treats (Max) Candy (Landon)
Gummies (Kolton) Something you eat (Olivia)
Gummy Bear (Spencer)

CAVITY: Your teeth are sick (Max) Mud (Jacob)
A hole in your teeth (Scarlett S) It's in your neck (Landon)
A lion (Paisley) when your tooth falls out and
Teething (Lincoln) the tooth fairy comes (Olivia)

TOOTHPASTE: You brush your teeth (Max)
You put it on a toothbrush (Scarlett S)
When you want to brush your teeth (Spencer)
To brush our teeth (Scarlett N)
You brush your teeth (Landon)
For brushing your teeth (Olivia)

DECAY: Teeth balls (Kolton) when something goes bad and
A truck (Jacob) your friend helps you (Olivia)
Blocks (Paisley)
Your teeth are rotten (Landon)

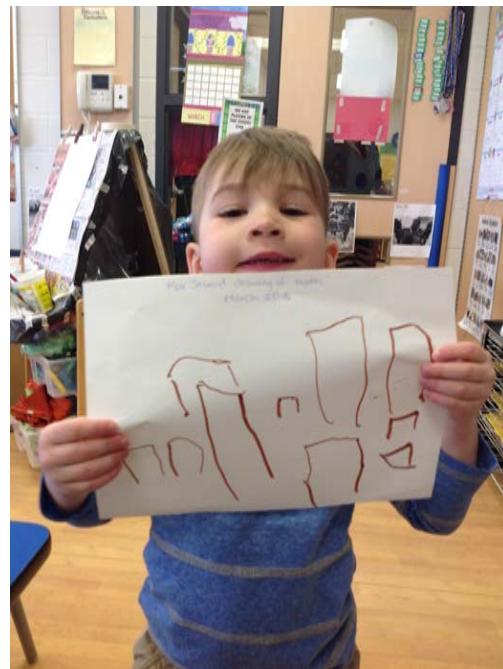
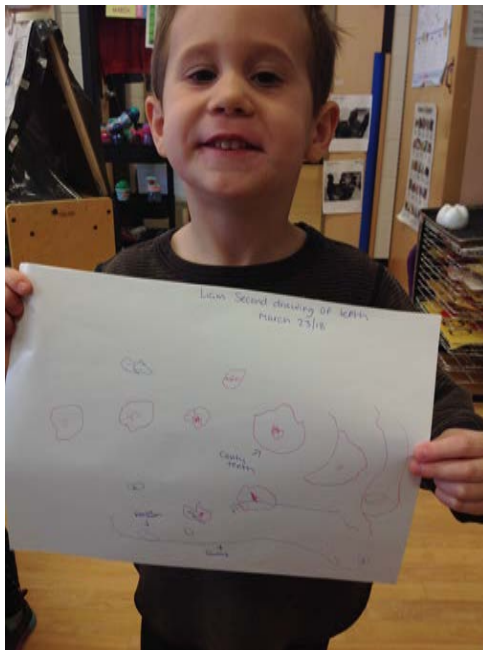
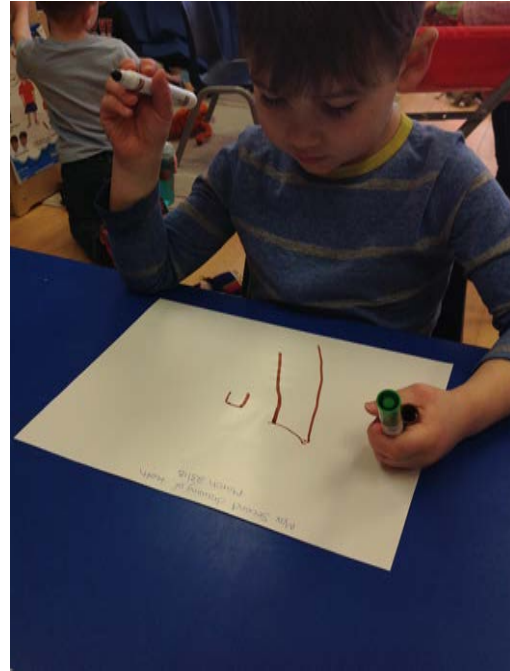
DENTIST: A office (Enoch) At the hospital (Lincoln)
He fixes our teeth (Scarlett N) If your teeth fall out (Landon)
Get needles (Kolton) I went but I don't know
He's near me (Scarlett S) what he does (Max)
For fixing our teeth (Olivia)

First Drawings:

Before we got deep into our learning, we took some time to draw what we believed our teeth inside our mouth looked like. Scarlett S used pen to draw her teeth but then used a pencil to draw "bad" teeth that could be in your mouth. "I need a different colour because bad teeth are dark" she said as she continued to draw circles. Gwen made sure that she included gums for her teeth.



Second Drawings:



When it came time to complete our second drawings we found that, the children made sure to add multiple types of teeth. Liam made sure to add regular clean teeth as well as cavity teeth. Max wanted to make sure he had baby and adult teeth.

Creative: Toothbrush Painting

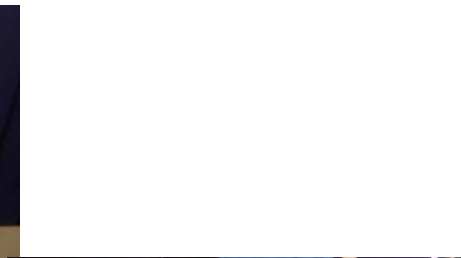
As we continued to talk about teeth and all that comes with it, we practiced brushing our teeth with blue paint. We selected blue paint because the majority of children expressed their toothpaste was blue and that way we could see if we brushed the whole tooth.

Abigail and Paisley worked hard to make sure every part of their tooth was brushed; Marcus brushed and brushed but it caused a little tear in the middle of the tooth. "Look that's a cavity" Max said as he pointed at the tooth that was being brushed. Together we brushed 15 teeth. We placed the teeth on the wall in a smile with both top and bottom teeth. One smile had the cavity tooth and the other was missing a top tooth. "That tooth already fell out" Scarlett said as she was looking at her own smile in the mirror beneath our smile display.



Dramatic play: Hoot Dentistry

We swapped out our kitchen area and opened Hoot Dentistry! The dental office offered same day cleaning, checkups and emergency tooth surgery. We added items such as toothbrushes, picks, floss, toothpaste and little hand held mirrors. Dentist clothing, surgical gloves and caps were also added to the centre. Abigail took the role of receptionist where she sat, answered phone calls and took notes in her day planner. Scarlett S attended the office in order to have her tooth removed as it was giving her a toothache; Dr. Paisley performed the surgery. Marcus came to get his teeth checked by Dr. Max who checked them, brushed them and even flossed them for him.



Mathematics: Bingo!

Today was a great tooth activity; we had the opportunity to play Teeth Bingo! We combined one of our favourite games with our new project topic. While playing bingo the children were engaging in learning about tooth decay, the dentist office, toothbrushes and health food vs candy. They had to match chosen photos with the ones on their bingo board.

It was a matching success!



Fine Motor: Fill the mouth

We cut out a large smile on sticky tack paper and provided mini cutouts of teeth. We discussed how the gums in our mouth help keep our teeth stuck inside our mouth. The children each took turns placing the teeth on the wide-open smile. When it first began, they hung the teeth in the proper direction as if it was like the teeth in our own mouth. Once complete they decided as a group they wanted to see how many little teeth they could fit inside the smile. Kolton even found some white paper and cut some extra teeth for his peers. They fit a total of 57 mini teeth inside the mouth.



Creative: Painting with floss

Today we took some time to learn about the string that many use to help keep their teeth clean. We examined a container of floss and then practiced flossing between each tooth by dipping the floss in paint and pulling it back and forth between the teeth on their paper.



Gross Motor: Tooth Fairy

This was a day of being tooth fairies. Each child were given the opportunity to have a balloon on a stick that represented the tooth fairies wand. As the children went around they gently tapped their peers with the balloon causing them to "fall asleep". That's when the tooth fairies selected helper went around and "collected" all the teeth from the sleeping children.

Sensory: Brushing our Teeth

In the sensory bin, we explored paper teeth hiding under shredded paper to represent sugar. Numbers and letters were written on each tooth, and the children searched through the sensory bin with a toothbrush to find the letters and numbers we were looking for.

As Max explored the sensory bin, he said "we have to brush the sugar bugs off the teeth, I will need to use lots of toothpaste". Scarlett S found the number 6 on a tooth, she picked it up and examined it, turning it upside down she cheers, "Look now it's a 9!" Colton found the letter "B" for his brother and Hailey gathered all the letters for her name!



Sorting/fine motor: Good and bad

Today we searched through newspapers and used our fine motor skills to cut out all the items that help our teeth and the items that help tooth decay move quicker.



Science: Apple tooth

We took an apple to symbolize our teeth; we cut a hole in the middle of the apple and left it out on the counter for a few days to see what would happen. The middle of the apple began to rot. "That's what it looks like when you don't brush your teeth" Scarlett S. acknowledged.



Science: Eggshell

Today we placed eggshells "teeth" in 4 different liquids to see what effects each liquid has on our teeth. We used water, apple juice, 7up and milk. We asked the children which liquid they believed would hurt the "tooth". Max, Lincoln, Marcus, Spencer and Landon thought the pop would. Steffen, Wilton, Gwen, Kolton and Bronwyn believe the Milk will. Scarlett, Abigail and Jordynn selected the juice.

When we conducted a check in only 20 minutes after the test began, Bronwyn noticed the apple juice was turning the egg shell yellowish orange. We left the eggshell over the weekend and the apple juice ruined the egg shell the most!



Literacy: Book time!

Throughout the project, we explored a number of different books that were about teeth.

- Pete the Cat and the lost tooth By James Dean
- Dentist tools By Elizabeth Salzman
- Open Wide By Laurie Keller
- The tooth book By Edward Miller

- Chirpy Charlies Teeth By Marta Zafrilla



SONG: To the tune of wheels on the bus

The teeth in your mouth are white and clean
White and clean
White and clean
The teeth in your mouth are white and clean
Let's keep them that way

We brush our teeth morning and night
Morning and night morning and night
We brush our teeth morning and night with a toothbrush and toothpaste

We floss between each little tooth
Each little tooth each little tooth
We floss between each little tooth so we don't get cavities

As we grow our teeth fall out
Teeth fall out teeth fall out
As we grow our teeth fall out and our adult teeth grow in

You should visit a dentist
A dentist a dentist
You should visit a dentist to keep your teeth healthy

Matching Game

The children were very excited to play this game. We took photos of all the children's smiles and laminated them. The children then had to guess whose smile was whose. Out of 27 smiles, the children were able to successfully able to recognize 24 smiles.



Special Guest

We had a special guest come to talk to us about our teeth. Her name was Tracey and she is Shamini's dental hygienist. When she came, she brought tools and activities for us to explore. We broke into two groups; one group sat and coloured a tooth picture to submit into a coloring contest, the second group sat and talked with Tracey. She had many different toothbrushes with her, as well as a false mouth that we could examine. Tracey talked to us about the importance of brushing and flossing as well as taught us the proper way to brush. Each child were given the chance to practice brushing and flossing on the teeth she brought. After we finished each activity, we came together as a group and Tracey was able to answer the questions we had regarding our teeth such as "is my tooth the same as a shark tooth", "what happens if your teeth get rotten" and "what is like to go to the dentist?" The children each received a gift from Tracey as they left which included a new toothbrush and mini floss sticks!







Scarlett S showed Tracey her teeth as Landon was explaining how the teeth Tracey brought looked like the teeth in their mouths.

Olivia and Lucian explored the multiple toothbrushes that were on display. They were able to feel all the different styles of bristles that there are.



Phase 3: Concluding the Project

Our final Project

Our final project took a few weeks to complete. It started by sending home a letter to our families requesting pop bottles so that we can make our teeth. We were able to collect 14 bottles. The children worked hard to paint the teeth white. While creating the teeth Max asked “what about a wiggly tooth?” and Landon said, “Don’t forget we need a rotten one.” Therefore, we went on a search for a green bottle that concluded as our rotten one, we half glued on a tooth to make it wiggly and we even added a small bottle that transformed in to a tooth that is just growing in. After we painted all our teeth, it was time to glue them on. Children had the chance to help glue them on, because we had to use the hot glue gun, Ashley put the glue on the teeth and the children placed them on the mouth.





When we completed our mouth the children were very excited to show off their hard work. We placed our mouth on display in the hall with photos as well as some children wanted to take a photo in the mouth to display how big it actually was.



We knew the project was over when the children had all the answers they wanted and we felt as if we learned what we needed to know. The children still use the dental stuff in the dramatic play and often talk about how they brushed the sugar bugs off their teeth and gums the night before to keep them clean!

Teacher Reflections

During this project, I was not fully sure on how far it would go or if it would even turn into a project but once we started engaging in the research, I found the children took off with it. It all began when the children were engaging in a lot of eating play and talking about dinosaurs and the bones they have which then transpired into the teeth inside the mouth of the dinosaur. From that, we began to explore what/who else has teeth, what is the purpose of teeth and what are they made of. The children then connected that to the fact that they have teeth and then our exploration began. The amount of information that the children knew before the project began slightly surprised me, as I did not think that they paid much attention to what seems like such a minor aspect of the body. The children began using terms that we had learned throughout the project for example during morning snack a child told me “I brushed the sugar bugs off my teeth last night so they don’t go rotten.”

Creating our three dimensional project was the part I found the most exciting. They children were engaged and wanted to put such detail in it such as wiggly teeth, missing teeth, a rotten tooth and even a tooth that was just growing in. the attention to detail that they put in to creating it showed me they have the knowledge they wanted and need about their teeth. It was such a fun project to engage in and I even learned little brushing techniques myself!

Ashley RECE

When we began the project on teeth I was so excited about the teaching the children about dental hygiene that helps enhance their oral health on daily basis. When Jessica brought all the dental tools and turned our kitchen area into a pretend dental office, I was amazed to observe the children’s enthusiasm and excitement to use those items! Some showed interests in playing with the tools while others enjoyed having their teeth cleaned that was performed by Jessica and their peers. We also read some books about teeth, the tooth fairy, and examined dental tools in books as well. The children’s favourite book about teeth that we read in class was “Pete the Cat and the Lost Tooth!” I also noticed that some children used the dental tools to examine their peer’s teeth and some toy animals as well. We had fun going for a walk to the school-agers rooms to ask our survey questions. The children seemed so excited to see some of older children’s loose teeth. We learned about what kind of foods that make your teeth healthy vs unhealthy by cutting out pictures from flyers and made a comparison poster out of it. Our final creation for the project was the 3D mouth which we used pop bottles to represent the clean and rotten teeth. We all enjoyed being part of this leaning process along with children!

Shamini RECE

The children enjoyed playing with dinosaurs and the hippo puppet in the room. The animals were always pretending to eat the play food, and parts of the plants in the room. As the children looked closer at the animals, they noticed that the animals had teeth. This sparked the interest in teeth. I found that the children could relate to a project on teeth, since everyone in the class has teeth. It was exciting to do activities around dental care, using floss to paint with and toothbrushes to clean. The part of the project I thought was the most educational for the children was when we set up the dentist office in the dramatic play area. We taught the children the name of each tool and how it is used. I enjoyed watching the children take turns sitting in the dentist chair using each tool. They were very



Careful as they pretended to use the mirrors to look inside each peer's mouth. The children took care of the tools and were sure to put them away when finished.

Near the end of the project we had the oral hygienist come into the room, the children got a hands on look at teeth and learned first-hand the proper way to brush our teeth. She sent home a toothbrush and tube of toothpaste with each child in hopes it would promote proper oral health care. The children quickly learned about teeth during this project and I believe they now care more about the health of their teeth, since they do not want to get any cavities.

Jessica RECE

I became involved in the tooth project near the end but had the opportunity to observe the children put together the 3D mouth. It was nice to see the children working together and taking turns painting and gluing the teeth onto the mouth. I was told by many children which animals and reptiles do and do not have teeth. They also told me about the different instruments that I could use to keep my teeth clean and healthy. They definitely learned a lot about teeth during this project and so did I.

Emily RECE