

From: Charlotte Jeavons

To: SACN

Subject: Consultation: 'Feeding in the First Year of Life'. Response from BASCD

Dear Sir, Madam

Please find below the BASCD (British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry) response to the consultation named above. These comments are restricted to the scientific content of the draft document and to the interpretation of evidence as directed.

Point 353. The aetiology of ECC is complex and the disease progresses more rapidly than in the permanent dentition. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) defines ECC as the presence of one or more decayed (non-cavitated or cavitated lesions), missing (due to caries), or filled tooth surfaces in any primary tooth in a child 71 months of age or younger. In children younger than 3 years of age, any sign of smooth-surface caries is indicative of severe early childhood caries (S-ECC). Reinforcing that ECC is often severe would add strength to this point that might otherwise be overlooked.

Point 354. The severity of the impact of dental caries could be made more strongly here. For example, children who have experienced multiple tooth loss can have problems eating due to their reduced ability to chew thus limiting their nutritional intake, and for some speech development can be effected.

Point 361. In addition to the points made about free-flow cups and speech development. Use of a valved cup also enables drinks to be consumed over a longer period because of minimal risk of spilling. This potentially prolongs exposure of children's teeth to cariogenic liquid.

Point 374. Clarity to this paragraph could be added if it was stated if the children in the study were exclusively breast-fed, or combination fed i.e. breast and bottle. This distinction aids readers interpretation of the evidence cited.

Point 395. Clarity to this paragraph could be added if the age, or an age range of the children included was stated and over what period of time their feeding practices continued. If this is not possible due to the information in individual papers, perhaps a note of caution could be added for readers. For example 'ever breastfed' could be as short as a week, which would be minimally protective in terms of malocclusion, including anterior open bite.

I do hope these comments are helpful. If you require any further information or explanation please dont hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

Charlotte Jeavons

BASCD Oral Health Champion