

## **Dandelion Oral Care Action**

The 'Dandelion Oral Care Action' (DOCA) is an oral health promotion programme organized by the Oral Health Education Division (OHED) of the Department of Health to promote oral health among children with intellectual disabilities. Through collaboration with schools and parents, we teach this special group of children the same toothbrushing method and look after their oral health. We hope that the children can maintain healthy teeth and gums.

We have designed a systematic toothbrushing procedure according to the children's learning abilities so that they can acquire the skills and techniques gradually by stages. We understand that children need more time to practise and learn progressively. School also plays an important role in the learning process. We will train teaching staff to become Oral Health Trainers (OHTs), who will then pass on the systematic toothbrushing procedure to other teaching staff, and from the teaching staff to the students according to their learning abilities.

Parents play a pivotal role in helping the children to master this systematic toothbrushing procedure. The OHTs teach the parents this systematic toothbrushing procedure, so that parents can simultaneously use the same method to teach the children at home.

We envision that this systematic toothbrushing procedure could be incorporated into the 'self-care' teaching curriculum, such that teachers could teach the children the proper toothbrushing technique in class to improve the children's oral health.