

When a resident won't open their mouth

It is common for a resident to refuse sometimes.
Stay calm and try these steps

Try this First:



Show the toothbrush.



Touch the toothbrush
to their lips, mouths, or
cheek.



Ask them to copy you.
Say "open wide like me."

If it's not working:



Try singing, whistling,
or humming.



Take a break and try again
later.

Good to know

- It's okay to step back and try again later.
- Some days are tougher than others.

When a resident resists by grabbing

A resident may try grabbing you or the toothbrush. They may be unsure of what you're trying to do.

Try:



Letting them brush their own teeth.



Distract, by pausing or talking.

If it's not working:



Hand them an object to keep their hands busy

Good to know

- It's good to develop a routine. Brush teeth at the same time, everyday, with the same carer.

When a resident fights a caregiver

There may be times where a resident becomes angry or violent.

Remain calm and try these steps

Try this First:



Distract them with the TV.



Come back when the person is sleepy.



Try with another carer.

If it's not working:



Check for broken teeth, sore areas, or signs of an infection.

Good to know

- It's okay to step back and try again later.
- Some days are tougher than others.