

Title of Intervention: A Children's Oral Health Prevention Program

Intervention Strategies: Group Education, Supportive Relationships, Individual Education, Provider Education

Purpose of the Intervention: To prevent dental caries among school children

Population: Primary school children

Setting: Three primary schools in a suburb of Cape Town, South Africa; school-based

Partners: None mentioned

Intervention Description:

- Group Education: All students in grade one received educational sessions that focused on basic oral health and simple methods of preventing the disease. Oral health education messages were reinforced at subsequent oral health facility visits.
- Supportive Relationships: A daily supervised tooth-brushing program using fluoride toothpaste was implemented in the schools.
- Individual Education: Each child received an initial oral health visit that involved an examination, scaling and polishing, sealants for all molar teeth and the restoration and extraction of decayed teeth.
- Provider Education: Teachers were informed twice a year about the correct dental health care by the oral hygienist of the clinic. Teachers were involved in the education and brushing programs.

Theory: Not mentioned

Resources Required:

- Staff/Volunteers: Teachers, oral health care providers
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Statistical software
- Space: Dental office space, classroom space
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Flip charts, models, dental equipment
- Evaluation: Clinical assessment equipment

Evaluation:

- Design: Quasi-experimental
- Methods and Measures:
 - Decayed, Missing, Filled Surveys (DMFS) index to measure dental caries

Outcomes:

- Short Term Impact: Not measured
- Long Term Impact: Participants in the intervention groups achieved much lower levels of caries. The intervention groups also had a significantly larger number of children who had no missing first molar teeth.

Maintenance: Not mentioned

Lessons Learned: Not mentioned

Citation(s):

Laloo R, Solanki GS. An evaluation of a school-based comprehensive public oral health care programme. Community Dent Health. Sep 1994;11(3):152-155.