

**Title of Intervention:** An Interactive Oral Health Intervention to Engage Young Children

**Intervention Strategies:** Group Education

**Purpose of the Intervention:** To promote proper oral health behaviors early in life to prevent disease later in life

**Population:** Children ages 3-5 years in pre-school

**Setting:** Schools; school-based

**Partners:** None mentioned

**Intervention Description:**

- Group Education: The treatment groups received five interventions per week for five weeks. The intervention demonstrated correct oral hygiene through a series of games and exercises, which included a dolls' sweets party, a food matching game, songs about toothbrushes, role-playing and puppet shows. They were taught to examine their teeth with their tongues. The Analytic Group (AG) watched the puppet show first and then played the games. The Synthetic Group (SG) played games first then watched the puppet show. The Control Group (CG) received verbal instructions of standard curriculum for dental health from their kindergarten teacher.

**Theory:** Not mentioned

**Resources Required:**

- Staff/Volunteers: Kindergarten teachers
- Training: Not mentioned
- Technology: Audiovisual equipment
- Space: Classrooms
- Budget: Not mentioned
- Intervention: Games, songs, puppets, dolls
- Evaluation: Printed surveys, assessment of tooth brushing skills

**Evaluation:**

- Design: Randomized controlled trial
- Methods and Measures:
  - Questionnaire to assess children's tooth brushing skills

**Outcomes:**

- Short Term Impact: On most dependent measures, children in the experimental groups showed more knowledge and skills of correct oral hygiene than did those in the control group. Knowledge gain was higher for children in the Analytic (AG) group.
- Long Term Impact: Not measured

**Maintenance:** Not mentioned

**Lessons Learned:** The use of games and shows can be more effective than information alone.

**Citation(s):**

Makuch A, Reschke K. Playing games in promoting childhood dental health. Patient Educ Couns. Apr 2001;43(1):105-110.