

THE EFFECT OF STORY TELLING METHOD ON TEETH BRUSHING BEHAVIOR IN PRESCHOOL CHILDREN IN LAMONGAN, EAST JAVA

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ABSTRACT

Background: Childhood is a critical period of acquisition of new knowledge and habits, which may be reflected later in health-related behaviors. The World Health Organization supported the promotion of oral health, in 1989, as an integral part of health actions for all. Dental caries is one of the most common childhood diseases and is mostly preventable through developing good oral health behaviours such as brushing teeth with fluoride toothpaste and controlling sugar intake. Preschool children need effective interventions to promote oral hygiene and prevention of caries. A previous study had used 'story-telling' framework to encourage children to construct a 'story-line' to integrate information into a coherent account. This study aimed to determine the effect of story telling on teeth brushing behavior in preschool children.

Subjects and Method: This was a quasi experiment with one group pre and post test design. The study was conducted at Harapan preschool, Cungkup, Pucuk, Lamongan, East Java. A sample of 30 children aged 3 to 6 years was selected for this study by total sampling. The dependent variable was tooth brushing behavior. The independent variable was story telling. The data were collected by questionnaire and analyzed by paired t-test.

Results: After the story telling the score of tooth brushing behavior (mean= 13.2; SD= 4.7) was higher than before the story telling (mean= 10.4; SD= 5.2) with $p= 0.033$.

Conclusion: Story telling method is effective to improve tooth brushing behavior in preschool children.

Keywords: story-telling, tooth brushing, behavior, preschool children

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