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## INTERACTIVITY OF DENTISTRY WITH STUDENTS AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUNICIPAL PROFESSORA ADELAIDE STARKE IN BLUMENAU, SANTA CATARINA, BRAZIL

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**Abstract:** During the COVID 19 pandemic, restrictions were imposed on dental care, limiting the performance of traditional dentistry. Elective services were suspended and this new reality allowed us to envision an opening for differentiated action in Prevention. It was feasible to develop and execute a set of actions in favor of Oral Health due to the connection that the Network provides us between Health and Education. A unique opportunity to reach all students with health actions through different prevention strategies, in conjunction with educational activities. Therefore, we present a brief report of our experience in Oral Health Promotion, carried out with more than 600 students from Elementary School Municipal Professora Adelaide Starke, in the city of Blumenau, Santa Catarina, Brazil in the year 2021/2022.

**Keywords:** Education in Oral Health, Preventive Dentistry, Pediatric Dentistry.

## INTRODUCTION

During the COVID 19 pandemic, restrictions were imposed on dental care, limiting the performance of traditional dentistry. Elective services were suspended and this new reality allowed us to envision an opening for differentiated action in Prevention. It was feasible to develop and execute a set of actions in favor of Oral Health due to the connection that the Network provides us between Health and Education. Therefore, we present a brief report of our experience in Oral Health Promotion, carried out with more than 600 students from Elementary School Municipal Professora Adelaide Starke, in the city of Blumenau, Santa Catarina, Brazil in the year 2021/22. This work was possible because there is an Oral Health Unit within the School that works in partnership with the management of the School Unit, the Department of Health Promotion and the Municipal Department of Education. A unique opportunity to reach all students with health actions through different prevention strategies, in conjunction with educational activities.





## METHODOLOGY

This Oral Health Education action took place with the presence of the Dental Surgeon within the School and classrooms. For this issue, a schedule was agreed with the management team and teachers. Based on SANTOS (2022); FRAZÃO, NARVAL (2012), we use in interactions: slides, educational videos, giant macro models of mouth, teeth and tongue, brushes, dental floss, and in a playful way we demonstrate how to perform oral hygiene correctly. We reflect on healthy eating and habits, clarify doubts and demystify the fear of dentists, with games that simulate office instruments. We proposed activities and checked what was assimilated. At the school's "Family Party", we participated with an interactive stand and strengthened our relationship with students and families.

## GOALS

To expand the offer of Oral Health Promotion for school students/patients, motivating them to replicate the knowledge acquired with their families; demystify the fear of dentists, building a relationship of trust with the dentist; approach and motivate students to adhere to oral health care habits; reduce the rates of caries disease and periodontal disease in those students with possible extensive reach to families.





## RESULTS

We identified that many were afraid of dentists and demystified aspects of this profession; we increase motivation for adequate hygiene and encourage periodic visits to the dentist. We noticed a reduction in the fear of visiting the dental office, as students approached the office and the school dentist. We believe that oral health indicators will demonstrate the effectiveness of this interaction.



## CONCLUSION

In the end, we conclude: many were unaware of simple concepts about oral hygiene and how to avoid diseases of the oral cavity. In addition to promoting Oral Health Education, we achieved receptivity on the part of students for necessary interventions. We realized that knowledge about adequate hygiene and prevention of oral diseases was assimilated, demonstrating that this form of prevention is effective in Oral Health Education. We highlight that this strategy can be replicated through the viability that working in a Health Network with Education provides.

## REFERENCES

FRAZÃO, Paulo; NARVAL, Paulo Capel. **Promoção da Saúde Bucal em Escolas**. Disponível em: <http://www.fo.usp.br/wp-content/uploads/DPromo.pdf> Acesso em: 23 set. 2022.