

T.O.O.T.H. Talks for the Kids

Daisy Meza, Enrique Teran, Jacob Thompson, Drewan Pigao, Prof. Merri Jones, Eastern Washington University



Abstract

Purpose: Implement an educational program that improves the oral health of children by increasing the dental knowledge of children and parents that are transitioning from homelessness. In doing so, we can also help families establish a dental home. **Methods:** Hold a virtual T.O.O.T.H. Talk via Zoom using an interactive PowerPoint and providing educational coloring pages. **Evaluation:** Ask questions at the end of the presentation as a post test using a “show of hands.” Obtain feedback from the community at Family Promise for ideas on future topics. **Conclusion:** The partnership with Family Promise provides dental hygiene students at EWU an opportunity to educate the community on the importance of dental care. Each year, A class will be able to work in collaboration with Family Promise to provide more education about dental care.

Program Goal

Help facilitate access to dental care and understanding of oral health to children from guest families at Family Promise in the Spokane community.

Community Mission Statement

We envision a future where no child experiences homelessness in Spokane County.
We are families and communities to end the cycle of homelessness.



T.O.O.T.H Talks Mission Statement

We aim to provide more education to the children at Family Promise by demonstrating proper homecare and nutritional information, and value of fluoride.



Needs Assessment

Improve access to dental care among low-income families at Family Promise, with a focus on increasing dental knowledge for the children in each family. Educate on the caries formation process and ways to prevent cavities. Reduce the caries risk in children of this population by educating them and the parents or guardians about the benefits of fluoride. Providing examples of foods that are considered high caries risk and offering healthier alternatives.

Logic Model

Inputs/Resources	Activities	Output	Outcomes - Impact		
Human Resources: EWU Dental Hygiene Students Facility: TBD Equipment/Supplies: Computer for Zoom, paper for activities, or email electronic forms Partners: Chris Harbert, Emma Hughes, and Damiana Wheeler at Family Promise Technology: Webinars via Zoom (Family Promise is currently only doing online events due to COVID)	Training/Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - oral health-related coloring pages - picture-word flashcards that identify stages of oral health and disease - develop a lesson plan to educate children on caries prevention - Discuss the importance of brushing and flossing - Educate on nutrition and how it affects caries risk Outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find and email/print out coloring pages related to teeth for children - create easy to understand notecards for children to answer - Deliver toothbrushes/toothpaste/floss to Family Promise for them to pass out to children 	Training/Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - try and get a headcount of how many children will be there - easy to follow and interactive lesson plan - Have children share their input on what a healthy smile means to them - Have the children share anything they learned Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2-4 different coloring pages that are tooth-related and easy for children - 15-20 notecards containing pictures of healthy/unhealthy smiles - Try and figure out how many children will be present so the appropriate amount of supplies are shared - email/mailling address to send items 	Short term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New knowledge on what a healthy smile looks like - Understand the importance of brushing and flossing - children make a daily effort in practicing good homecare skills - Getting new toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss - Basic understanding of what a cavity is and causes 	Intermediate-term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Form the habit of brushing and flossing 1-2 times a day - Less bleeding gums in children's mouths - Impact on life from cavities 	Long term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decreased amount of caries in children - Children and their families will implement healthy foods and drinks into their diet to help prevent tooth decay - Increased oral and overall health - Understanding the importance of fluoride for children

Outcomes

This is the 2nd annual partnership with Family Promise. The evaluation is still ongoing including feedback on future topics for T.O.O.T.H. Talks, and audience knowledge pre- and post-tests. These evaluation instruments will continue to be used to plan presentations for future implementation.