

Brush, Floss, Fluoride...Fun!



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DPH Family Promise Presentation

Project & Goals

We want to educate these families on the importance of oral health homecare habits. Our goals include:

- Educate families on how tooth decay such as cavities and gum disease can cause other serious health issues.
- Describe the importance of brushing and flossing using the correct technique.
- Discuss different homecare aids and preventative products.

Background & Critical Issue

We partnered with Family Promise to help educate families on the importance of homecare. We want to help these families understand basic important homecare habits so they can properly care for their oral health. These families are currently enduring a stressful situation concerning their housing, so want to help by providing education on how to care for themselves during this time.

Partner Organization

We are partnering with Family Promise to provide oral homecare instruction to the guests of the facility. These guests experiencing imminent homelessness and are assisted by staff to help them avoid any trauma from their experience. They offer temporary housing, payments for rent, landlord mediation, transportation, utility support and creative solutions to strengthen the family.

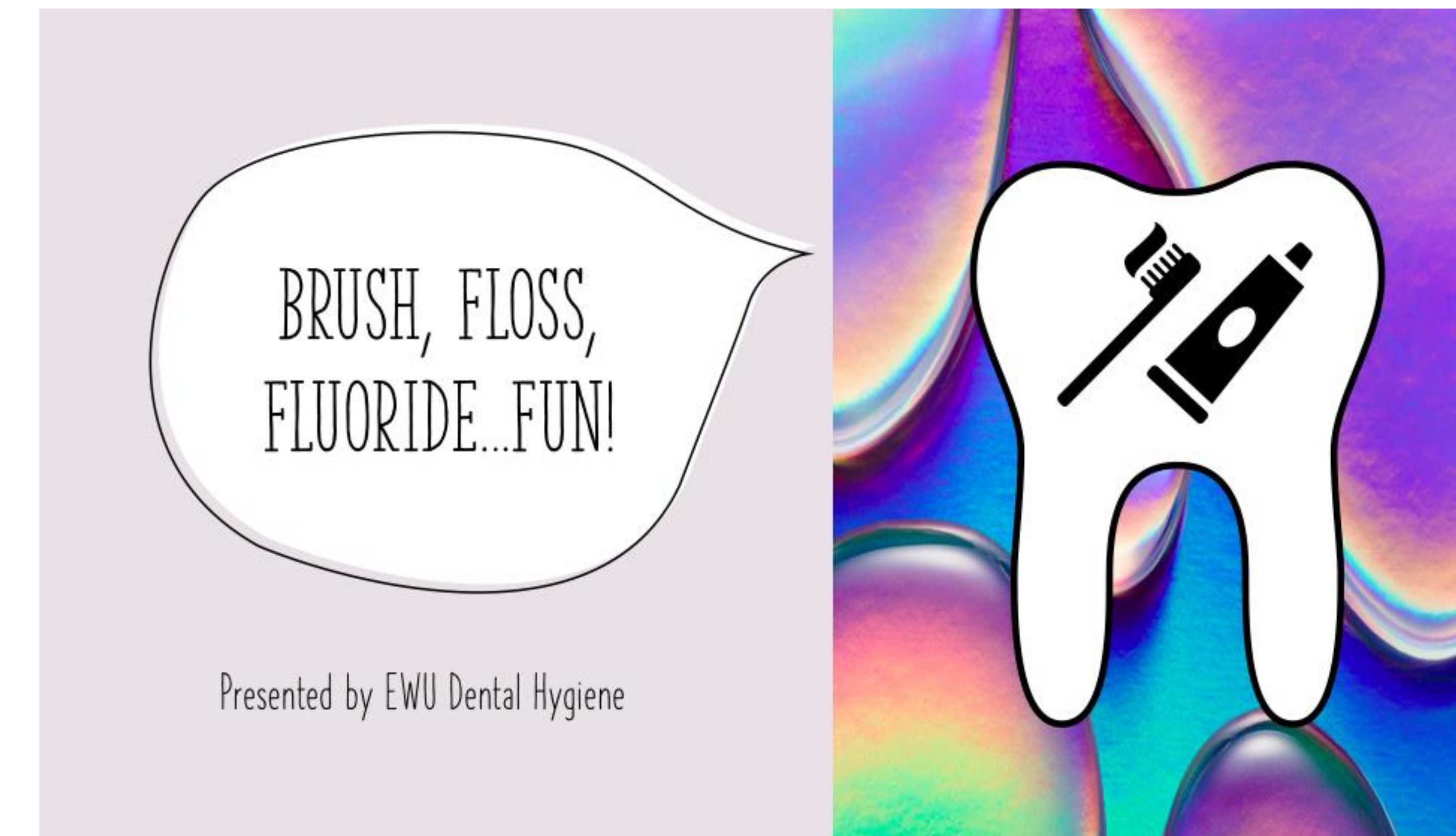


What We Did

We created a lesson plan that discusses tooth decay, brushing, flossing, the use of other homecare products, the benefits of fluoride, and how oral health can affect the entire body. We designed a family friendly presentation to help parents understand how to care for their own oral health and the oral health of their children. We hope to help families reduce to risk of developing periodontal disease and caries through the use of effective homecare techniques and products. We understand that not everyone has an understanding of the importance of homecare and want to help families understand the consequences of not properly caring for one's oral health.

What We Learned

We have learned the importance of education on developing oral homecare habits. The ideal and proper way to care for our mouths and teeth is not common knowledge. However, many people seek this information in hopes of improving their health. Additionally, many parents do not know the means in which it takes to ensure proper homecare for children. We learned how to implement the health belief model and we improved our educational skills by using language that is understood by non-dental professionals.



Caption: Pictured above is our presentation title slide

What is Next

We would like to ask Family Promise what they believed was most beneficial in our presentation and see if they would like anything implemented into their partnership with EWU next year, if they decide to partner with our hygiene students again.

For us personally, we will be taking what we have learned about public health with us into our future careers and seeking out opportunities to improve the health of our community.

We also would like to donate some dental supplies to the members of family promise; as they are need of things like toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss and mouth rinse.



Caption:

Civic Perspective

This experience helped us understand Family Promise's vision by (insert experience here) "Envision a future where no child experiences homelessness in Spokane County". "Equipping families and communities to end the cycle of homelessness" (insert experience here). Our experience with Family Promise better helped us understand how families in the Spokane county are experiencing homelessness due to a variety of factors but increasing their knowledge about oral health care and providing resources can help instill better habits within their daily lives.

Project & Goals

Our Dental Public Health course taught us skills to help us work with different populations within our community. We learned that populations of people like the group we are working with, "Family Promise", may have low dental IQ compared to other groups that are in our community. The Health Belief Model is one theory that is relevant when working with our community partners because some of these members have low self-esteem and little dental knowledge, so working with them to help move them to a point where they understand that disease is present, and they want help is something that we are noticing!