



# **Assessment of Children's Oral Health Care Practices and their Dental Problems**

## **Thesis**

Submitted for partial Fulfillment of Master's degree in  
Pediatric Nursing

**By**

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## **List of Abbreviations**

<i><b>Abbr.</b></i>	<i><b>Full-term</b></i>
<b>AAPD</b>	American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
<b>ADA</b>	American Dental Association
<b>DA</b>	Dental Association
<b>FDI</b>	World Dental Federation
<b>GPHP</b>	Global Periodontal Health Project
<b>IADR</b>	International Association Dental Research
<b>ICDAS</b>	International Caries Detection and Assessment System
<b>MMF</b>	Mandibulo-Maxillary Fixation
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>PPM</b>	Part Per Million
<b>SAW</b>	Smile Around the World
<b>SBHCs</b>	School-Based Health Centers
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WHO GOHP</b>	The World Health Organization Global Oral Health Program
<b>WOHD</b>	World Oral Health Day

## Operational Definitions

- **Alveolar bone:** The portion of the jaw supporting the roots of the tooth (**Christopoulos, 2015**).
- **Buccal:** The vestibular surface of the molars and premolars, which faces the cheek (**Lewis, 2018**).
- **Calculus:** A hard deposit that forms on the teeth, above or below the gum line. Calculus is not easily removed and generally requires removal with special instruments (**Cawson, 2017**).
- **Cavity:** Hollow place or hole caused by decay in tooth (**Xuedong, 2016**).
- **Circumvallate papilla:** Any of the large papillae near the base on the dorsal aspect of the tongue, arranged in a V shape. The taste buds are located in the epithelium of the trench surrounding the papilla (**Cohen, 2013**).
- **Dental arch:** A term used to designate the upper or lower teeth (**Ghidrai, 2018**).
- **Dental plaque:** A film of colonizing bacteria attempting to attach to the surface of teeth and feed off of carbohydrates on the teeth. As the bacteria degrade, the released acid erodes tooth enamel causing dental caries (**Gehrig, 2018**).
- **Dentation:** The kind, size and arrangement of the teeth (**Cobourne, 2017**).

- **Filling:** A material (usually gold, silver alloy or plastic) inserted in a prepared cavity in a tooth (**Scully, 2014**).
- **Fissure:** A deep cleft in the surface of a tooth, usually due to imperfect fusion of the enamel of the dental lobes. It can be treated with a dental sealant to decrease risk of caries (**Xuedong, 2016**).
- **Gingival:** The gums that surround the teeth (**Nagel, 2015**).
- **Gingivitis:** The buildup of bacteria in plaque causing inflamed gums that bleed easily. Although gum tissue is inflamed, teeth are still firmly embedded in surrounding bone and no irreversible bone or tissue loss has occurred. If gingivitis is left untreated, it can lead to periodontal disease (**Kay, 2016**).
- **Lingual:** The surface of a tooth that faces inward toward the tongue and oral cavity, opposite to the vestibular surface (**Lewis, 2018**).
- **Occlusal:** The surface of the teeth that comes in contact with those of the opposite jaw during occlusion (**Balong and Fehrenbach, 2014**).
- **Palate:** The roof of the mouth (**Sing, 2015**).
- **Periodontal disease:** Begins when bacterial toxins in plaque and the body's defense mechanisms involved in fighting infections start to break down bone and connective tissue that hold teeth in place. The result is eventual and progressive deepening of gum pockets and loss of bone

surrounding teeth, possibly leading to tooth loss (**Wallace, 2016**).

- **Pit:** Depression in the enamel surface of a tooth due to faulty or incomplete calcification or formed at the confluent point of two or more lobes of enamel (**Ghidrai, 2018**).
- **Restoration:** A broad term applied to any dental filling, crown, bridge, partial denture or complete denture that restores loss of tooth structure (**Kidd and Fejerskov, 2016**).
- **Root canal:** A process in which the pulp of a dead tooth is scraped out and the chamber is filled (**Darby and Walsh, 2015**).
- **Sealants:** A plastic coating applied to teeth especially back teeth to prevent dental caries (**Dail, 2015**).
- **Systemic fluoride:** Fluoride that enters the tooth from inside the body (**Goldberg, 2016**).
- **Teething:** A stage beginning around six months of age in which the teeth begins erupting through the gums. Teething often causes discomfort and fussiness (**Cobourne, 2017**).
- **Tooth eruption:** The appearance of tooth through gums (**Binwoo, 2017**).

## ABSTRACT

Oral health is crucial for general health, and a fundamental nursing responsibility as it is a state of being free from oral infection, periodontal disease, tooth decay, tooth loss, and other oral diseases that affect millions of children. **This study aimed to** assess children's oral health care practices and dental problems. **Subjects and Methods:** A descriptive design was conducted at the outpatient dental clinics at both Ain Shams and Tanta university hospitals. A convenient sample included all available school age children (80) and their accompanying mothers when necessary. **Tools of data collection** involved: I- A structured questionnaire to assess school age children's knowledge regarding oral health care and dental problems. II- Dental assessment sheet to assess children's dental problems. III - Tooth brushing and flossing checklists to assess children's oral health care reported practices. **Results:** The study findings revealed that the majority of the studied children had decayed teeth. There was a highly statistically significant difference between the studied children's decayed teeth and their total oral health care reported practices. **Conclusion:** The study concluded a high prevalence of dental caries among the studied children related to their unsatisfactory oral health care practices. **Recommendations:** Educating the children proper tooth brushing with fluoride toothpaste, flossing technique and limiting sugar-containing fast food.

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**Key words:** Dental problems, knowledge, nurse, oral health, practice, school children.

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