

Do I Have to Go? Child-led Research into a Children's attitudes to Dentists

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A new performance based system was developed to involve 9-10 year old school students in formulating their own research questions and carrying out research themselves on the anxiety of children visiting dentists.

The project aimed to engage with the local community using child-led research that empowered children to express their feelings and opinions through performance with dental and drama students.

The children went on to change the research question and formulated their own questionnaires, asked personally to more than 100 friends.

Results

The children used forum theatre techniques to act out the results from questionnaires, using this technique to developing ways of making dental visits more pleasant.

They then performed the results in their school assembly, which was captured on video and presented to a multi-disciplinary audience involving school teachers, clinicians and researchers.

“ *This project has influenced my way of teaching students and stimulated my research approach to gaining qualitative data and formulating research questions.*

Legacy

The model is being taught to university students and being applied to other research questions.

Through dissemination of this model of patient-led and performance research it is hoped to be used for:

- further research with both children and adults
- developing ways to improve the clinical environment, the procedures used within it and the training of Paediatric Dentists themselves.