

# Preparing a Child for the First Dental Visit: Parent's/Guardian's Knowledge, Attitude and Practice

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# Introduction

The first dental visit is important to develop a good dentist-parent-child relationship. The aim of this research was to assess parent's/guardian's knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) in preparing a child for the first dental visit.

## Methods

A cross-sectional study was carried out within 6 months on 150 participants who brought their children to the Kulliyah of Dentistry dental polyclinic, IIUM.

Validated questionnaires consisting of parent's/guardian's Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (K,A,P) related to the development of the tooth, oral disease, caries prevention, habits, role model, the reason for dental visit, introduction to dental clinic and dentist were distributed. Pearson correlation was used to analyse the associations.



# Results

The significance between K, A and P was  $P < 0.05$  with rho between K and A, K and P, and A and P of +0.213, +0.246, +0.406, respectively.

## Association between Knowledge, Attitude and Practice

Variables	$r_s$ value	p-value
Knowledge and attitude	+0.213	0.009
Knowledge and practice	+0.246	0.002
Attitude and practice	+0.406	0.000

Early exposure was given to the children before their first dental treatment:

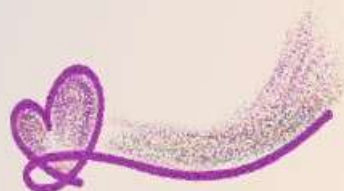
- Explaining the main purpose of going to the dentist and the impact of good oral hygiene towards quality of life
- Watching videos and pictures describing dental treatment in child-friendly clinic.



# Results

Skilled dentists, painless, gradually and enjoyable dental treatment were participant's preferences.

As role models for children, parents had taught dental home care, the right attitude of rewarding and not frightening children with dental treatment, as well as supporting school dental programs.



# Conclusions

The relationship between K, A and P was significant. However, the associations were fair.

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# CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

This certifies that

**Dr. Susi Sukmasari**

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