

PEDIA-TRICK DENTISTRY

Jhalak Kadakia¹

¹College of Dental Sciences and Research Centre, Ahmedabad, India

OPINION

How to cite: Kadakia J. Pedia-Trick Dentistry. The Quadrant. 2023;1(3):3-4.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11114746>

In 2021, two systematic reviews and meta-analysis reported the prevalence of dental caries and malocclusion in Indian children. An astonishing prevalence of 52% for dental caries and 35% for malocclusion in children between 3-18 years and 8-15 years age groups respectively was reported.^{1 2} Rephrasing the above statement, we can acknowledge that every alternate child is likely to have a carious lesion and nearly 4 in 10 children exhibit malocclusion.

Children have dental problems much before they develop an understanding of their responsibility in maintaining personal dental hygiene. Who's supposed to be blamed for that? Are the culprits the busy guardians who work day and night to secure their child's future or the innocent children who have just learned to control their bowels?

The answers to these questions have led to the foundation of pediatric and preventive dentistry. It is a branch not only meant to treat children but to forbid grown-up adults with past dental problems dating back to their childhood, holding their parents accountable for not having taken proper care of them as children. It's not only a branch known to deal with the tantrums of these children and modify their behavior for a dental procedure, but also tries to find the root cause of their behavior; thus, building a deeper connection with them.

Pediatric dentists are important for having the knowledge and years of experience in dealing with children exceptionally. They're no less than tricksters who trick the minds of these minors into believing that a painful procedure could be fun and comfortable too.

The pediatric practice has its language. We don't talk about giving anesthesia before caries removal in front of children. Instead, it comes out as putting the sugar bugs to sleep.

Numbing a tooth sounds like applying jelly whereas applying an etchant sounds like applying a magic solution. On the other hand, wetting the tooth sounds like time for a tooth shower, and drying a tooth sounds like being vacuumed.



Dentistry seems scary and paediatric dentists make an absolute effort to make it antithetical. If visited at the right times, they can change the future of an individual's oral cavity. Most parents don't realize their importance until it's too late. Taking their kids to a dentist in their initial years feels like a waste of money to many. Little do they know that the cost of a minor procedure like applying a pit and fissure sealant in the developing dentition can save a thousand bucks in the future by eliminating the need for a root canal treatment, extraction, or a fixed prosthesis.

The majority of the parents take their sons and daughters to dentists around the age of thirteen seeking braces in an attempt to improve their aesthetics. Orthodontic treatment has its own challenges for the patient. It is a treatment that is accompanied by pain, periodic ulcerations, restrictions on sticky food, transient unesthetic appearance, and the duty of practicing extensive oral hygiene practices routinely. What if their parents consulted a pediatric dentist when the time was right? What if they were informed that a simple interception with space maintainers just a few years back could have saved them from all the above-mentioned trouble?

Paediatric and preventive dentistry is a branch that holds the ability to change the approach of dentistry provided it gets the right exposure. From convincing puzzling minds to performing dental surgeries with the utmost care, it is what makes pediatric dentistry versatile. It's not just a dental profession but rather an opportunity to shape those tiny minds where a dental treatment is perceived nothing less than a terror. An opportunity to develop lifelong love for dental care.

In conclusion, paediatric dentistry plays a crucial role in ensuring the oral health and well-being of children. It involves specialized care, addressing dental anxiety, educating parents, and creating a positive dental experience. With its focus on early intervention and preventive measures, paediatric dentistry sets the foundation for a lifetime of healthy smiles.

REFERENCES

1. Pandey P, Nandkeoliar T, Tikku AP, Singh D, Singh MK. Prevalence of Dental Caries in the Indian Population: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *J Int Soc Prev Community Dent.* 2021;11(3):256-265.
2. Balachandran P, Janakiram C. Prevalence of malocclusion among 8-15 years old children, India - A systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Oral Biol Craniofac Res.* 2021;11(2):192-199. doi:10.1016/j.jobcr.2021.01.011

