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MODULE 15

Oral Health Across the Lifespan

Part 5: Oral Health Literacy

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Oral Health Literacy

In-Class Activities

Improved Oral Health Literacy = Improved Care

The class is planning on conducting an oral health literacy program in a local homeless shelter. The following can be used as a script when working the residents of the shelter. Try to get the students to anticipate some of the answers they may get from residents of the homeless shelter.

-When is the last time anyone visited the dentist? Try to get basic answers from audience.

-Can anyone tell me why taking care of your teeth is important—see what reasons the audience have. Then explain the importance of oral health – need teeth to chew, talk, etc.

-Does anyone have diabetes (problems with sugar), blood pressure problems, any diseases that you have to take medication for? Wait for answers and then explain how there can be a link between oral health and systemic diseases.

-Do you discuss brushing and flossing with your doctor? If so, why or why not? Explain to the audience why talking to their doctor about dental pain or decay is important.

-Explain basic oral health facts- Brushing, flossing etc- Can use information for other powerpoints on oral health.

-Test for comprehension---Try the talk back method—Break down into small groups and see how much information was retained.