



Community Engagement

HKU Faculty of Dentistry helps kindergartens provide oral health education

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An HKU Faculty of Dentistry team led by Dr Chun-hung Chu organised five workshops this year to equip local kindergarten staff with skills to pass on oral health knowledge to pupils and their parents.



Each half-day workshop at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital consisted of seminars on children's oral health given by Faculty staff, followed by small-group problem-based learning sessions led by Faculty students. Topics covered in the workshops included tooth development and common oral health problems in preschoolers; management of tooth decay by fluoride treatment; current clinical treatments for tooth decay; and reducing snacking and overcoming dental anxiety. As a permanent public resource, the seminar slideshows have been uploaded at the project blog site at: <http://bit.ly/1bTqZrj>.

"Hong Kong has no government dental service for preschoolers, nor a comprehensive preschool education policy, so young children are at a disadvantage for health literacy and oral health," says Dr Chu. "After receiving their training, the kindergarten teachers pledged to share their new oral health and hygiene knowledge with other teachers at their school, their pupils, and the pupils' caregivers and parents."

The workshops were part of an HKU Impact Project funded by the HKU Knowledge Exchange Fund 2013-14, titled "Empowering kindergarten teachers and parents to deliver oral health education to young children". The project targeted a total of 300 teaching professionals (teachers, vice-principals, and principals) from more than 50 kindergartens in Hong Kong, including the 18 kindergartens run by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and the 22 kindergartens run by the Po Leung Kuk. The HKU team also held discussions with the Po Leung Kuk and Tung Wah Group of Hospitals to ensure that their kindergarten classroom curricula now include oral health and self-care. In addition, the HKU team partnered with Colgate-Palmolive (HK) to develop children's educational packs for the participating kindergartens.

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Knowledge exchange (KE) at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry (<http://facdent.hku.hk>) aims to maintain a two-way dialogue between the Faculty and all sectors of the community. The Faculty's KE strategy, public education, and community activities form part of the Faculty's fourth mission of "engagement". We will be pleased to consider any suggestions or comments, or community/school invitations; please e-mail dentke@hku.hk

