Health education is a transformation process that develops people’s critical awareness of their own health problems and stimulates them to search for solutions to solve those problems. Parents are of fundamental importance in this process as they are active participants in their children’s oral health. Objective: Thus, pre-schooler’s parents and/or responsible adults’ knowledge level toward oral health was evaluated. The pre-school children were enrolled in 21 day care centers, which are associated with UNESCO and Porto Alegre City Hall. Methods: A sealed questionnaire containing 16 questions was handed out to 250 parents. Results: After statistical analysis, the following figures were found: 81.86% of the parents had already had some kind of contact with information regarding oral health in the first childhood, mostly through magazines, radio and TV programs (26.47%); 78.43% of the parents believe that educational actions on oral health for babies prevent oral diseases and recognize caries as one of those diseases (80.39%); 51.96%, however, do not know that such a disease is transmitted by the mother to the child; 62.75% of the parents need dentistry treatment, but 75.98% of these have not looked for treatment for over a year. Conclusions: Although parents know something about oral health in the first childhood, this study has shown how important teams may be in day care centers and/or nurseries so that concepts of education and prevention in oral health may be passed on to parents. Ultimately, this aims to help them change their habits and make them adopt healthier actions in their homes in order to achieve better levels of general and oral health.

Seq #224 - Childrens' oral health
3:30 PM-4:45 PM, Friday, March 23, 2007 Ernest N. Morial Convention Center Exhibit Hall I2-J

Back to the Behavioral Sciences/Health Services Research Program
Back to the IADR/AADR/CADR 85th General Session and Exhibition (March 21-24, 2007)