

Thesis Title A Study on Child Care Taker Performance in Dental
Public Health Program for Preschool Children
Related to Oral Hygiene Status of 3-6 Year Old
Preschool Children at Sating Pra District of Songkhla
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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study design was carried out to described child care takers' performance in Dental Public Health Program for preschool children and oral hygiene status of 3-6 year old preschool children. Not only the association among guardians' oral health care behavior for taking care their children, tooth brushing activity and oral hygiene status of 3-6 year old preschool children, and basic oral health care suggestion activity to guardians but also the association between oral health care behavior for taking care of their children and oral hygiene status of 3-6 year old preschool children were included in the study.

Two hundred and forty preschool children and their guardians with 19 child care takers from 11 schools were randomly selected. First,

children were examined for their oral hygiene status, then self-administered questionnaires were distributed to their guardians. Finally, child care takers were interviewed for their performance in Dental Public Health Program for preschool children.

The results showed that tooth brushing activity was associated with oral hygiene status of preschool children (p value $< .0001$). Three pairs of associations between guardians' oral health care behavior for preschool children and basic oral health care suggestion topics were: brushing children's teeth in the morning and time to brush, brushing children's teeth before bed time and time to brush, preparation of a tooth brushing set at school and providing a tooth brushing set at school (p value = .0026, .0013 and $< .0001$, respectively). Association between oral hygiene status of preschool children and two behaviors of guardians: brushing teeth in the morning and preparation of a tooth brushing set at school were supported by statistical significance.