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The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of dental education in primary school children on dental needs.

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Methods: Dental needs of first grade primary school children were evaluated by a pediatric dentistry resident using a dental mirror and a head light. A dental hygienist visited each class twice and described the factors affecting dental caries and the effective ways to minimize carious attacks. At the beginning of the next academic year the same children were evaluated again.

Results: Over 1600 children were examined in 15 schools. Out of the 15 schools examined, in 8 (53%) a significant reduction of the dental needs was observed. In the remaining 7 schools, the dental needs were similar to the previous year.

Conclusion: In Israel, from 2009, dental treatment for children up to 8 years is free. The results showed that presentations given by a dental hygienist improved dental awareness and following that, the dental needs of the children were significantly reduced after one year.

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