

**The Dental Hygiene Care Spectrum:
A clinician's toolbox for providing exceptional care for children with Autism Spectrum
Disorder.**

Group Members: Penney A, Thompson B, Bennett D, Buhler H, Coish S.
Advisor: Hare A.

Objective: This presentation's aim is to provide oral health professionals with accommodation solutions to address the oral health needs of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and increase access to care.

Methods: A review was conducted by searching the following databases: PubMed, CINAHL, DOSS, Cochrane Library, and Google Scholar using the keywords 'oral hygiene,' 'dental anxiety,' 'autism spectrum disorder,' and 'children'. The inclusion specified articles written in English, published within the last 10 years, and peer-reviewed, while editorials and letters to editors were excluded.

Results: Eleven articles met the criteria covering accommodation solutions for reducing dental anxiety for children with ASD during oral hygiene appointments.

Discussion: The literature evaluated various interventions, including social stories, tell-show-do, and sensory modulation techniques, aimed at improving the dental hygiene experience for children with ASD. Findings suggest that these interventions, tailored to individual needs, hold promise in mitigating fear and anxiety, enhancing comprehension, and promoting preventative dental hygiene practices.

Conclusion: Integration of accommodation solutions in oral healthcare settings is crucial for children with ASD. Parents, educators, and oral health professionals should collaborate to increase access to care for these children.