



OT Lens: Un Paso
A La Vez



Oral Hygiene



TOOTH BRUSHING AND ORAL CARE IN AUTISM

Dental oral care and routine are difficult in children with autism spectrum disorder, also referred to as ASD, due to plan and carry out activities, sensitivity to sensory input, and repetitive and disruptive behaviors (Floríndez et al., 2022). Individuals with ASD have a higher risk for poor oral health than other populations (Como et al., 2021; Floríndez et al., 2022).

There were common themes gathered from the study:

- Parental Involvement
- Modifications (Adjustments/changes)
 - Sensory
 - Using a mirror, during toothbrushing
 - Standing on tip-toes for proprioceptive input, while brushing
 - Habitual
 - Using timers
 - Electric toothbrush

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The following have been identifying factors to toothbrushing:

- Taste of toothpaste
- Size of toothbrush
- Feel of bristles
- Vibration of electric toothbrush
- Timers
- Videos
- Visual reminders



(Floríndez et al., 2022)

REFERENCES

Como, D. H., Stein Duker, L. I., Polido, J. C., & Cermak, S. A. (2021). Oral health and Autism spectrum disorders: A unique collaboration between dentistry and occupational therapy. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(1), 135.

Floríndez, L. I., Como, D. H., Floríndez, D. C., Floríndez, F. M., Law, E., Polido, J. C., & Cermak, S. A. (2022). Toothbrushing and oral care activities of autistic and non-autistic Latino children. *Children (Basel, Switzerland)*, 9(5), 741. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children9050741>

