



**Before the Community Workshop**

*Well before the Community Workshop, you will need to schedule infants and young children to be “patients” during the practice session. You could also work with a local daycare center or school to set up this practice session. Be sure that you maintain appropriate infection control and have permission from parents to work with their children. If parents can attend, that would be best. You will also need to have all of the supplies ready for this session, including everything needed to maintain appropriate infection control. If your group is large, you might want to enlist the help of other dental health professionals to work with you during this afternoon.*

This afternoon, we will be working with infants and young children, practicing some of the things that you have learned during this workshop. We want you to apply what you learned during the infection control session. You might want to have your “7 Steps” and “Infection Control” handouts to remind you of the steps.

First, I will demonstrate. Next, you will work in pairs, reminding each other of the steps. I will be walking around and watching, but if you need me at any time, please raise your hand or call out to me.

Finally, remember that when working with very young children, you must remain calm. If you get nervous, they will pick up on this. The calmer and more relaxed you are, the calmer they will be. Some babies, however, are going to cry no matter how relaxed we are. Just do the work quickly, and raise the baby back into the caregiver’s arms. The more practice you get, the more confident you’ll become.



*Make sure you demonstrate before having the community members try these skills. Don’t worry if it goes very slowly at first, they will pick up speed as they gain confidence and practice these new skills.*



*Training Tip: This is your chance to teach your community members how to work with infants and young children to promote oral health. You will probably want to teach them how to do knee to knee positioning with infants, how to apply fluoride varnish to infants and young children, and how to brush a young child’s teeth so they can teach parents how to brush their children’s teeth.*

**As you walk around, provide positive reinforcement to increase confidence. Be sure that they are adhering to infection control principles, and make mental notes about things you want to reinforce at the end of the practice session.**

At the end of the practice session and clean-up, bring the group back together.

### **Questions**

- 1) How did the practice session go for you?
- 2) Was there any part that was particularly difficult for you?
- 3) Did anything surprise you?
- 4) How comfortable are you now going out in the community to provide these interventions?
- 5) Is there anything that you would like for me to review again or is there anything that you feel you need more practice with?

Everyone did a great job and I think we have made a good start in getting ready to implement our interventions in our communities.