### **Clinical Skills Lesson Plan Utilizing Smiles for Life Curriculum**

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The [Smiles for Life](https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/) modules offer versatile applications in both early and advanced clinical education. This lesson plan suggests an approach for incorporating one or more modules into a “flipped classroom” model for early clinical learners. In this format, learners complete the modules independently and submit their certificates of completion before attending class. This approach allows oral health to be seamlessly integrated into the existing clinical skills curriculum and avoids competition for curricular time.

The following lesson can be structured as an experiential learning activity and may also include an evaluation component. A sample evaluation form is provided, which can be adapted to fit your specific curricular requirements.

**Lesson Plan: Clinical Education Session on Oral and ENT Exams**

**Lesson Title:**

Using Smiles for Life for Integration of Oral and ENT Exams in Clinical Practice

**Duration:**

1 Hour (modify to meet your actual course’s allotted time)

**Objectives:**

At the conclusion of this section, participants should be able to:

* Perform an Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) examination while describing oral anatomy and characteristics of healthy teeth
* Describe the prevalence, etiology, and consequences of early childhood caries (ECC)
* Perform a consistent and thorough oral examination
* Identify normal and abnormal oral health findings
* Diagnose, manage, and appropriately refer for caries, oral pain, infections, and trauma
* Discuss preventive measures for caries with caretakers and how to prevent oral injuries

**Materials Needed:**

* [Smiles for Life Module(s)](https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/all-courses/) (online)
  + While all modules can be used, the following modules are suggested for early clinical learners (in order):
    - [Oral Exam](https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/courses/child-oral-health/)
    - [Caries Risk Assessment, Fluoride Varnish, and Counseling](https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/courses/caries-risk-assessment-fluoride-varnish-and-counseling/)
    - [Child Oral Health](https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/courses/child-oral-health/)
    - [Acute Dental](https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/courses/acute-dental-problems/)
* Certificates of completion for the Smiles for Life Module
* Personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, eye protection)
* ENT examination tools (otoscope, tongue blades, etc.)
* Dental examination tools (mouth mirrors, dental probes, etc.)
* Anatomical models for oral regions
* Handouts of examination checklists and guidelines

**Pre-Class Assignment:**

Students must complete the Smiles for Life Module(s) and submit their certificate of completion before the session.

**Session Breakdown:**

**Introduction (5 minutes)**

* Welcome and introductions by faculty.
* Brief overview of session objectives and the importance of integrating oral and ENT exams.
* Discuss the relevance of oral health in overall patient care and impact on systemic health.

**Review of Smiles for Life Module (5 minutes)**

* Brief discussion on key takeaways from the Smiles for Life Modules.
* Q&A session to address any questions or clarifications on module material.

**Demonstration of Oral Exam (15 minutes)**

* Faculty demonstration of a comprehensive oral exam using anatomical model or a volunteer.
* View Oral Health for the Primary Care Provider training video [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGC_rxqzbFg)
* Key points to cover:
  + Inspection of lips, gums, teeth, tongue, and oropharynx.
  + Identification of common oral pathologies.
  + Documentation of findings.
  + Review indications for referral/consult.

**Demonstration of ENT Exam (15 minutes)**

* Faculty demonstration of a comprehensive head, ears, eyes, nose, oral, throat examination (HEENOT) exam.
* Key points to cover:
  + Inspection of the ears, nose, and throat.
  + Use of otoscope to examine the ear canals and tympanic membranes.
  + Examination of nasal passages and sinuses.
  + Techniques for examining the throat and neck.
  + Identification of common ENT pathologies.
  + Documentation of findings.
  + Review indications for referral/consult.

**Hands-On Practice (15)**

* Students pair up and practice performing oral and ENT exams on each other under faculty supervision.
* Faculty provide real-time feedback and guidance to ensure proper technique and thorough examination.

**Wrap-Up and Q&A (5 minutes)**

* Recap of the key points covered in the session.
* Opportunity for students to ask remaining questions.
* Highlight the importance of interprofessional collaboration in patient care.
* Encourage students to practice and integrate these skills in their clinical rotations.

**Assessment:**

* Submission of the Smiles for Life Module certificate before the session.
* Active participation in hands-on practice.
* Faculty observation and feedback during the hands-on practice session.

**Follow-Up:**

* Students are encouraged to integrate oral and ENT exam techniques in their future clinical encounters.
* Faculty will be available for further questions and guidance during clinical rotations.
* Provide additional resources and reading materials on oral and ENT health (review articles or online training such as Smiles for Life: The Oral Examination [https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/courses/the-oral-examination](https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth.org/courses/the-oral-examination/)).

**Notes:**

* Ensure all necessary medical equipment is available and functional before the session.
* Consider inviting guest speakers or additional faculty from the dental school to provide additional expertise and demonstrate interprofessional collaboration.
* Emphasize the importance of communication and teamwork among healthcare professionals in providing comprehensive patient care.

**Oral Health Skills Evaluation Form**

#### **Student Information**

* **Name:**
* **Student ID:**
* **Date:**
* **Evaluator:**

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

Rate the student’s performance on each criterion using the following scale:

* **1** = Major Improvement
* **2** = Minor Improvement
* **3** = Satisfactory

#### **Oral Health Skills Assessment**

**1. Preparation and Infection Control**

* **Washes hands and uses appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment):** \_\_\_
* **Ensures all necessary instruments and materials are ready:** \_\_\_

**2. Communication Skills**

* **Explains the clinical exam/procedure to the patient clearly and effectively:** \_\_\_
* **Obtains patient consent before beginning the examination:** \_\_\_

**3. Examination Technique**

* **Inspects lips and oral mucosa thoroughly for any lesions:** \_\_\_
* **Examines gums and identifies any signs of gingival disease:** \_\_\_
* **Assesses the tongue, including the dorsal and ventral surfaces:** \_\_\_
* **Evaluates the floor of the mouth and palate:** \_\_\_
* **Examines the oropharynx and tonsils:** \_\_
* **Inspects teeth for caries, fractures, or other abnormalities:** \_\_\_

**4. Identification of Pathologies**

* **Identifies common oral pathologies (e.g., caries, soft tissue lesions, gingivitis):** \_\_\_
* **Notes any abnormalities or areas of concern:** \_\_\_

**5. Documentation**

* **Accurately documents findings in the patient’s record:** \_\_\_
* **Provides a clear and concise summary of the examination:** \_\_\_

**6. Professionalism**

* **Maintains a respectful and professional demeanor throughout the examination:** \_\_\_
* **Adheres to patient confidentiality and privacy standards:** \_\_\_

**7. Overall Competence**

* **Demonstrates overall competence in performing an oral health examination:** \_\_\_

#### **Comments**

**Strengths:**

**Areas for Improvement:**

**Additional Comments:**

#### **Evaluator's Signature**

* **Signature:**
* **Date**

This evaluation form provides a structured way to assess students' oral health skills during their clinical education. Feel free to modify it according to specific course needs, curricular objectives, or additional competencies required by your institution.