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FAST HEROES 112 : A KINDERGARTEN-BASED EDUCATIONAL STROKE PROGRAM FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

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Group Name

The FAST Heroes 112

Background And Aims

Globally stroke is a worldwide leading cause of disability and around fifty million people are affected by stroke annually. Public stroke educational and awareness programs can make a great deal of difference. Young children are in prime position to seek urgent medical care if grandparents suffer a stroke, as grandparents are often their secondary caretakers. The objective of the current study was to design an educational intervention targeting children and, in parallel, directly involve extended family members.

Methods

Participatory action research. Over the course of five weeks, this school-based educational stroke intervention sought to educate 66 preschoolers and their families through a series of novel activities that revolved around four superheroes. One superhero was introduced every week and their superpower was linked to the FAST mnemonic and the EU emergency number 112. We used a PPT, an animation video and a wide range of in-class and take-home activities, such as "phantom speech", role-playing, and rhyming poems. Children were also encouraged to identify their own family superhero to transfer their learning into real life.

Results

Follow-up individual and group assessment pointed to encouraging results with children identifying stroke symptoms more often than naming them. Parental involvement in house was not associated with in-class and follow up performance [$p = 0.573$ and $p = 0.514$ respectively].

Conclusions

Preschoolers' acquired knowledge of stroke symptoms appears more solid when recognition is assessed. Assessment tasks involving substantial naming do not necessarily reflect their ability to detect stroke symptoms.

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Trial Registration Number

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