

23rd International Conference on

Adolescent Medicine & Child Psychology

September 28-29, 2017 Berlin, Germany

Using technology appropriately to assist young children learn about sexual education: An overview of the new “Facts of Life Interactive”

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Children have many questions about the “facts of life” or where babies come from. Research has shown that this can be a difficult and awkward conversation for parents to have with their children. It is essential to give children accurate yet age-appropriate information at the right times, and from their parents, rather than from classmates, the TV, or the Internet. With these ideas and concerns in mind, in 2012 Dr. Roberts created a software application for digital media devices. This first app is called “The Facts of Life” and it has now been downloaded over 30 thousand times around the world. With support provided by the University of Victoria and the BC Innovations Council, “The Facts of Life Interactive” (FOLI) is now ready. The new version will incorporate the latest interactive features of IOS to provide children with an enthralling and educational experience. Talking about the facts of life will no longer be a boring and awkward experience for children and families. During this keynote address, Dr. Roberts will provide an overview of FOLI, all the while grounding the new direction of education and technology in the key findings of pertinent extant literature in the areas of early childhood education and paediatric health psychology. Dr. Roberts will also discussing the theoretical/clinical importance of appropriate sexual education for preschool children.

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