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Babies aren't the only ones who cut teeth: A hand-on experience in psychomotor learning

Psychomotor ability is a blend of cognition and physical movement. Hand skills are essential in the practice of dentistry and in certain fields of medicine, such as surgery. Practitioners must not only know what to do, they must be able to do as well. Although dentally relevant, this task was chosen, as it is unlikely that the participant has done it before and it is within clinically relevant dimensions. As it is a test of psychomotor ability, not discipline, it is, therefore, relevant to other clinical disciplines. This workshop allows participants to test their psychomotor ability using a calibrated and documented exercise. The workshop begins with a presentation of the task, followed by a hand on exercise done in conjunction with the presenter. The product is a carved wax molar tooth. The exercise is repeated with no instruction. A second carved tooth results. The carved teeth are then compared to each other and to the presented standard. Shape, detail, morphology and dimension all give information on hand skills and fine motor control. The first tooth gives an indication of the ability to follow and interpret directions, while the second tooth indicates ability to learn in the psychomotor realm. In addition participants will be able to acquire a better understanding of their fine motor skills, better understand the basic anatomy and physiology of a human molar and enjoy the challenge of learning a new skill.

Biography

Alan J Kilistoff is currently a Clinical Professor at the University of Alberta, Canada. He was graduated from the University of British Columbia, Canada in 1976 with a DMD and practiced in a private clinic for 28 years. He has started teaching at the University of British Columbia in 2000, moved to the University of Saskatchewan in 2005 and is currently teaching at the University of Alberta. In 2009 he has received a Master of Education Technology from the University of British Columbia. His current interest includes ergonomics and dental loupes magnification, dental materials, dental education (particularly tacit knowledge and psycho-motor skill development) and operative dentistry.

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