Reviewer's report

**Title:** Oral healthcare of preschool children in Trinidad: A qualitative study of parents and caregivers

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 8 June 2012

**Reviewer:** Kimon Divaris

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a well-written and informative paper on an important topic. Apart from the obvious relevance to the local community in central Trinidad, the insights offered by qualitative methodology on caregivers' knowledge, perceptions, behaviours and suggestions reveal cross-cultural and inter-national common themes caregivers' role in children’s oral health. I suggest that the authors consider expanding on their specific recommendations based on their study's finding, as outlined below.

Minor Revision

The authors' conclusion (in both abstract and text) is that "oral health promotion should include effective dissemination of oral health information, more practical health advice and greater access to dental care for families with preschool children". While this is a true statement, one can argue that this is already known and well-established. It would be a valuable contribution if the authors could (perhaps in their discussion) be more explicit, and offer specific recommendations based on the information from the focus groups, that could alleviate the major issues noted above (knowledge, practices and access to care). They mention as a possible avenue for increasing access to dental care the "...increased training and deployment of Dental Nurses/Therapists in the country". However, it appears that other dental public health strategies, such school-based oral health programs and early establishment of a dental home (e.g. age 1 dental visit) are also in line with caregivers' beliefs, preferences and own suggestions?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.