

WHO'S CALLING THE SHOTS?

EXPLORING WHAT WE TEACH CHILDREN

ABOUT NEEDLES IN PICTURE BOOKS

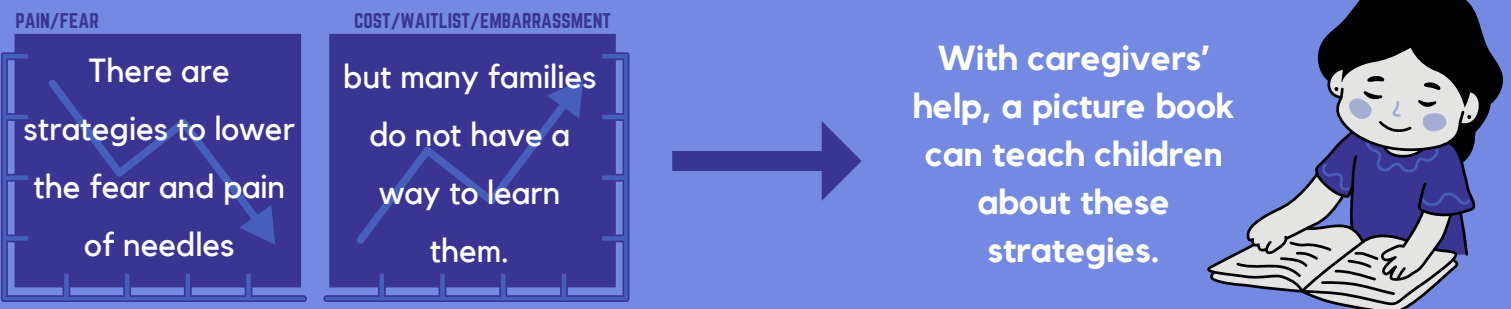
PURPOSE

Study explores information related to needle procedures presented to children in picture books.

This includes:



MORE THAN 50% OF CHILDREN AGED 4 - 8 ARE SCARED OF NEEDLES.
CHILDREN MAY RECEIVE 24 + NEEDLES BEFORE THE AGE OF 18.



MATERIALS

48 Picture Books



Published between 1981 and 2022 and available on Amazon.

TARGET AGE

Children 5-8 Years Old

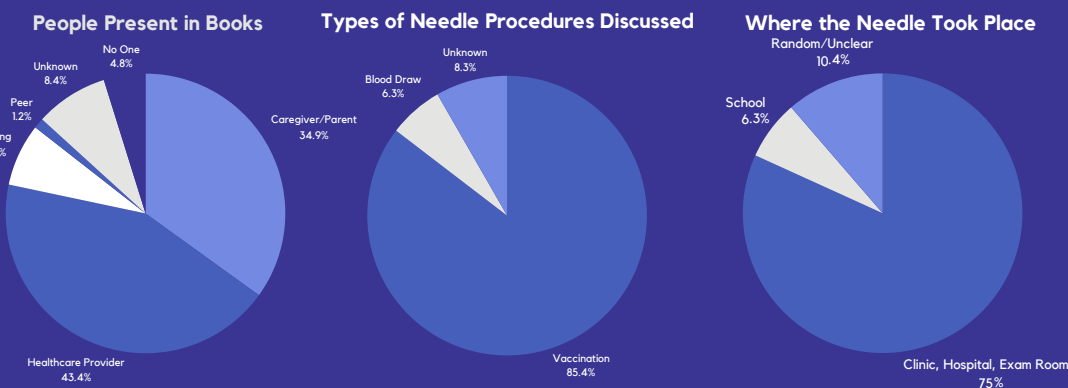


RESULTS

CONTENT FOUND IN THE 48 PICTURE BOOKS:

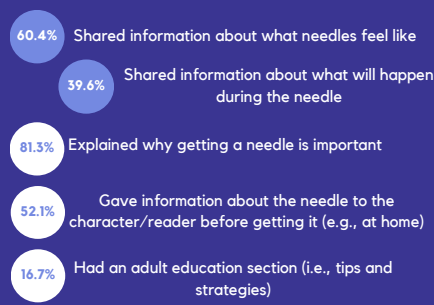
OBJECTIVE 1

What to Expect



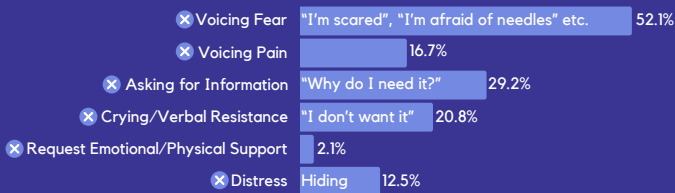
OBJECTIVE 2

Educational Information



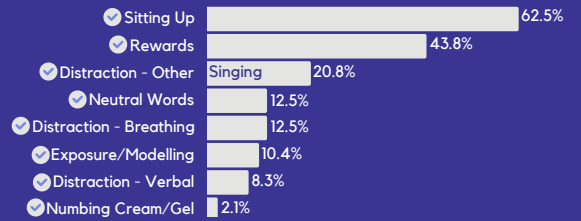
OBJECTIVE 3

Expressions of Fear and Pain



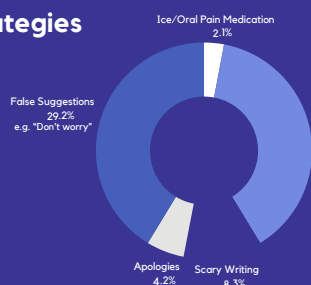
OBJECTIVE 4

Coping Strategies

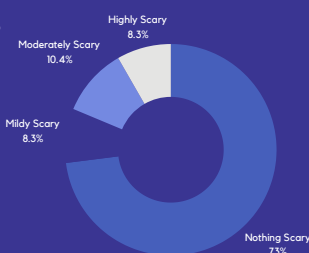


OBJECTIVE 5

Unhelpful Strategies



Scary Visuals



IMPACT

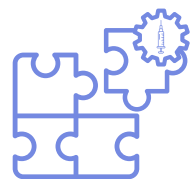
This research helps us understand:

How needles are presented to children at an early age.

If content in children's books can be supported by science.

Areas to improve teaching resources.

Gaps to creating a book to address needle fear/pain.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

81% of books

explained why needles are important, which may make children more likely to trust them.

Many books used coping strategies that have been shown to work but some also included scary pictures and strategies that have not been shown to work.

The books gave more information about what needles feel like than what happens when you get a needle.

This may not prepare children for what to expect.

Vaccinations were the main focus in these books, which shows how important they are in young children's lives.

Infographic by: Elizabeth Schmidt (Research Intern)

Nauman, H., Dobson, O., Taddio, A., Birnie, K. A., & McMurtry, C. M. (2023). Picturing bravery: A rapid review of needle procedures depicted in children's picture books. *Children (Basel)*, 10(7), 1097-.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/children10071097>