

St Andrews Behavioural Interaction Coding Scheme (SABICS)

Behaviour	Code	Operational definition
Protocol		
Introduction/lead in (initial state)	in	Dental nurse (DN) greets child before any procedure starts.
Open mouth check	om	DN examines child's mouth without a dental mirror.
Mirror mouth check	mm	DN examines child's mouth with a dental mirror usually when examining top teeth.
Varnish application	va	Includes brush preparation, tooth drying and varnish application.
All others (protocol)	pa	None of the behaviours in this category occurs.
Stop (point event)	sp	End of varnish application when the last time the brush is removed from the child's mouth. Stop coding after this point.
Verbal Nurse		
Silence (initial state)	sl	
Appeal to authority	aa	DN reminds child of parent or nursery staff's desire for treatment. (Mum has asked us to do it.)
Appeal to example	ae	DN informs child of others who have had treatment. (Other boys and girls all had it done.)
Child's name	cn	DN calls child by name.
Compliment	cp	DN makes positive comments on child's appearance, name etc. not on behaviour (lovely shoes).
Fantasy statement	fs	DN refers to magical, cartoon characters or objects (princess, spiderman teeth).
Humour	hl	DN makes a joke, silly statement, silly question, or exaggeration. (You've got a nose tongue.)
Information-giving	ig	DN gives child procedure-related information (teeth, instruments, method, outcome).
Information-seeking	is	DN asks child for procedure-related information.
Instruction	st	DN gives child instruction to carry out an action. (Open your mouth wide.)
Negative comment	nc	DN makes negative comment about child's behaviour or attitude.
Negative consequence	nq	DN informs child of negative or lack of positive outcome if no treatment.
Non-procedural talk	nt	DN makes statements or questions not related to procedure. (How old are you?)
Nurse-procedural talk	nu	Procedural talk between nurses or with support worker. (Shall we do the bottom ones only?)
Offer of task alternative	ot	DN offers child a lesser challenge (just counting the teeth).
Permission-seeking	ps	DN consults child for their consent in order for nurse to carry out an action. (Is it OK if I count your teeth?)
Pet name	pn	DN calls child an endearing name (sweetheart).
Positive consequence	pq	DN informs child of positive outcome of treatment.
Praise	pb	DN makes positive comment about child's behaviour or attitude.
Reassurance	re	DN describes ease and pleasantness of treatment, varnish etc. (It's easy peasy.)
Request	rq	DN asks child to carry out an action. (Can you get on the chair please?)
Reward (sticker)	rs	DN promises child a sticker often dependent on behaviour.

Non-verbal Nurse

All others (initial state)	ao	
Gesture	ge	DN uses gestures to demonstrate instructions (in tell-show-do).
Touch directing	td	DN physically directs or manoeuvres child's body, limbs, head or mouth (lifts child on to a chair).
Touch playful	tp	DN touches child with hands, brush, mirror etc. in a playful manner (tickling, poking, giving high five).
Touch reassuring	tr	DN uses touch to comfort child (patting, stroking, holding child's hand).
Touch restraining	tt	DN physically restricts movement of child's head, body or limbs.
Touch other	to	All other touches (for attention, safety, thanks).

Verbal Child

Quiet (initial state)	qt	
Crying/groaning	cg	Verbal sound suggesting pain, fear, upset.
Laughter	la	Verbal sound suggesting enjoyment.
Speech (no)	sn	Child says 'no' to refuse treatment-related requests.
Speech (other)	so	Except for 'yes' and 'no', any other utterances by the child.
Speech (yes)	sy	Child says 'yes' to accept treatment-related requests.

Non-verbal Child (point event)

Hides face/mouth	hf	Child covers face with arms or hands, burying face in adult's body.
Non-verbal agreement	ag	Child conveys acceptance by non-verbal behaviours (nodding head).
Interacts with instrument	te	Child holds or touches the instruments (brush, cotton wool, mirror, gloves).
Pushes away (hand)	ph	Child use hand/s to push DN or instruments away.
Shakes head	sh	Child conveys refusal/reluctance to treatment by shaking head.
Sits up/moves away	su	Child sits up from lying on the dental chair; stands up (walks away) from sitting.
Turns head	th	Child turns head away from DN or a normal position.
