



# PARASITO 2025

29º CONGRESSO BRASILEIRO DE PARASITOLOGIA

## USE OF PLAYFUL ACTIVITIES AS A TEACHING STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN ABOUT INTESTINAL PARASITOSIS: AN EXPERIENCE REPORT

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### Abstract

Parasitic infections are more prevalent among school-age children due to inadequate hygiene habits. In rural environments, with poor sanitation and water treatment, the risk of transmission increases among individuals and makes children the main target of health education activities. In this context, a playful activity among 68 elementary school students, aged 8 to 11 years, was carried out to promote health education, focusing on the main intestinal parasitic infections. A questionnaire adapted to the age groups was applied before and after the interventions to assess the acquisition of knowledge. The questionnaire was designed with five questions about concept, transmission, symptoms, prophylaxis and treatment. Four activities were developed: 1) conversation circle and discussion about the content of the questionnaire; 2) interactive demonstrations with the participation of children explaining the life cycle of *Schistosoma mansoni* and *Ascaris lumbricoides*. Educational materials prepared manually about each phase of the cycles were used; 3) a large-scale board game, consisting of fifteen squares of paper and a large die constructed from recycled bottles. The students were divided into groups, with one member from each team representing the pawns. The students answered questions about the topics discussed in the previous activities; 4) painting of hands with fluorescent paint, followed by washing of hands. After washing, they were asked to place their hands in a box prepared to create a dark environment and finally a black light flashlight was used to reveal any remaining paint. The activities emphasized the importance of proper hand washing. There was great involvement of the children and it was possible to promote an educational environment with positive repercussions in the responses after the intervention.

**Supported by:** FAPEMAT, CNPq

**Keywords:** Playful activities, intestinal parasitic disease, health education.

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