

**ABSTRACT**  
**The Relationship of Dental Care Behavior with the Incidence of Dental**  
**Caries in Elementary School Children in MI Al-Ma'arif 04 Singosari**  
**Malang.**

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The age of elementary school children is a vulnerable age with poor dental care behavior that can cause dental caries. This condition is the most common dental health problem in school-age children. This study aims to determine the relationship between dental care behavior and the incidence of caries in elementary school children in Madrasah Ibtidaiyah Al-Ma'arif 04 Singosari Malang. This type of research uses a cross sectional approach. The study sample amounted to 47 elementary school children grades 1-3 selected by purposive sampling technique. The research instrument used dental care behavior questionnaires and dental caries observation sheets. Data analysis using spearman rank correlation test. The results showed no significant relationship between dental care behavior and the incidence of dental caries in elementary school children with p-value = 0.354, correlation coefficient -0.138. The research recommendation is for further research to be carried out with observational data collection methods on children's behavior in dental care.

**Keywords :** Behavior, Dental Care, Dental Caries, Children, Elementary school