

Additional file 2

Exploratory pretest knowledge quiz: descriptive results. These results are not used for primary inference because the quiz content overlapped with the teaching assistant's case bank.

S4. Quiz item descriptive statistics

Five multiple-choice items administered at pretest (n=124) covered core paediatric dentistry topics: child behaviour management, deciduous tooth pulpitis treatment selection, deciduous incisor avulsion management, consequences of early primary-tooth loss, and the most-used child cooperation rating scale (Frankl scale). Group-level (experimental vs control) analyses are not reported because pretest responses were anonymous and the group assignment field was not included in the pretest instrument.

Note on scoring: values shown below are the raw option indices recorded by the survey platform (typically 1-4 for the four response options); they are not correct/incorrect indicators and should not be interpreted as accuracy rates. We report these descriptives in their raw form for transparency only; they were not used for any inferential analysis.

Table S4. Pretest knowledge quiz item descriptive statistics (n=124)

Item	N	Mean±SD	Median	Min	Max
Q1: behaviour management	124	2.83±0.65	3.0	1	4
Q2: pulpitis treatment	124	3.53±0.69	4.0	1	4
Q3: tooth avulsion	124	2.32±0.69	2.0	1	4
Q4: early loss sequelae	124	2.97±0.22	3.0	1	3
Q5: cooperation scale	124	1.46±0.90	1.0	1	4

Pretest survey total score (self-efficacy + knowledge items combined, as scored by the survey platform): n=124, mean=26.91, SD=7.00, median=26.5, range 13-44. The total combines six self-efficacy items and five knowledge items and is reported only as the platform-generated descriptor; it was not used for any inferential analysis.

S5. Note on exclusion from primary inference

Because the LLM-based teaching assistant included structured cases that addressed the same competency areas as the pretest knowledge quiz (behaviour guidance, pulpitis management, avulsion, and primary-tooth-loss counselling), any posttest knowledge gain in the experimental group would be confounded with direct content exposure. We therefore administered the quiz at pretest only and report it here for transparency, not as evidence of an intervention effect.