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Focus Groups with School Age Children for Development of a Pediatric Wellbeing Picture Scale

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THE PEDIATRIC POPULATION IS AN UNDERSERVED POPULATION IN MENTAL HEALTHCARE¹

BACKGROUND

- ❑ Mental health is increasingly being overlooked in the pediatric population
 - ❑ Issues were exacerbated by COVID-19

DEVELOPMENTAL LEVELS

- ❑ Piaget: Concrete Operational²
- ❑ Erikson: Industry vs. Inferiority³
- ❑ Kohlberg: Conventional Level⁴

AIM

- ❑ Scale aims to provide a universal screening tool for mental health issues

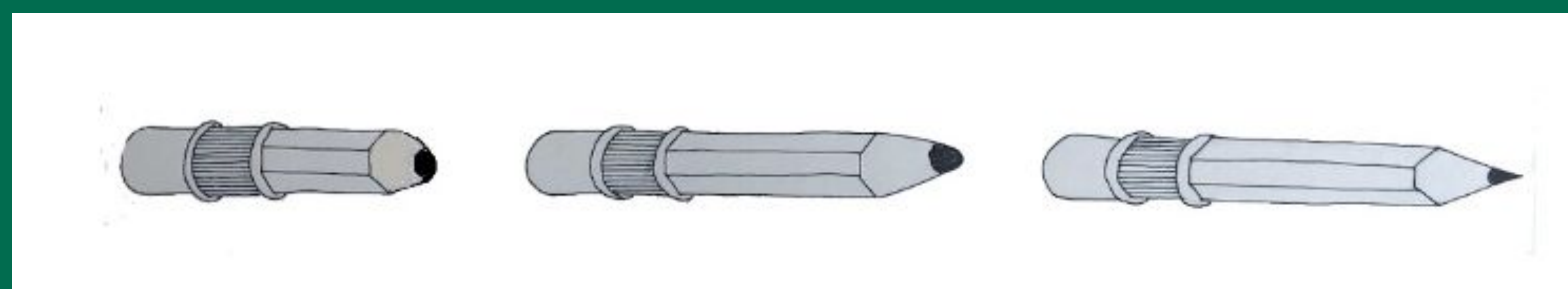
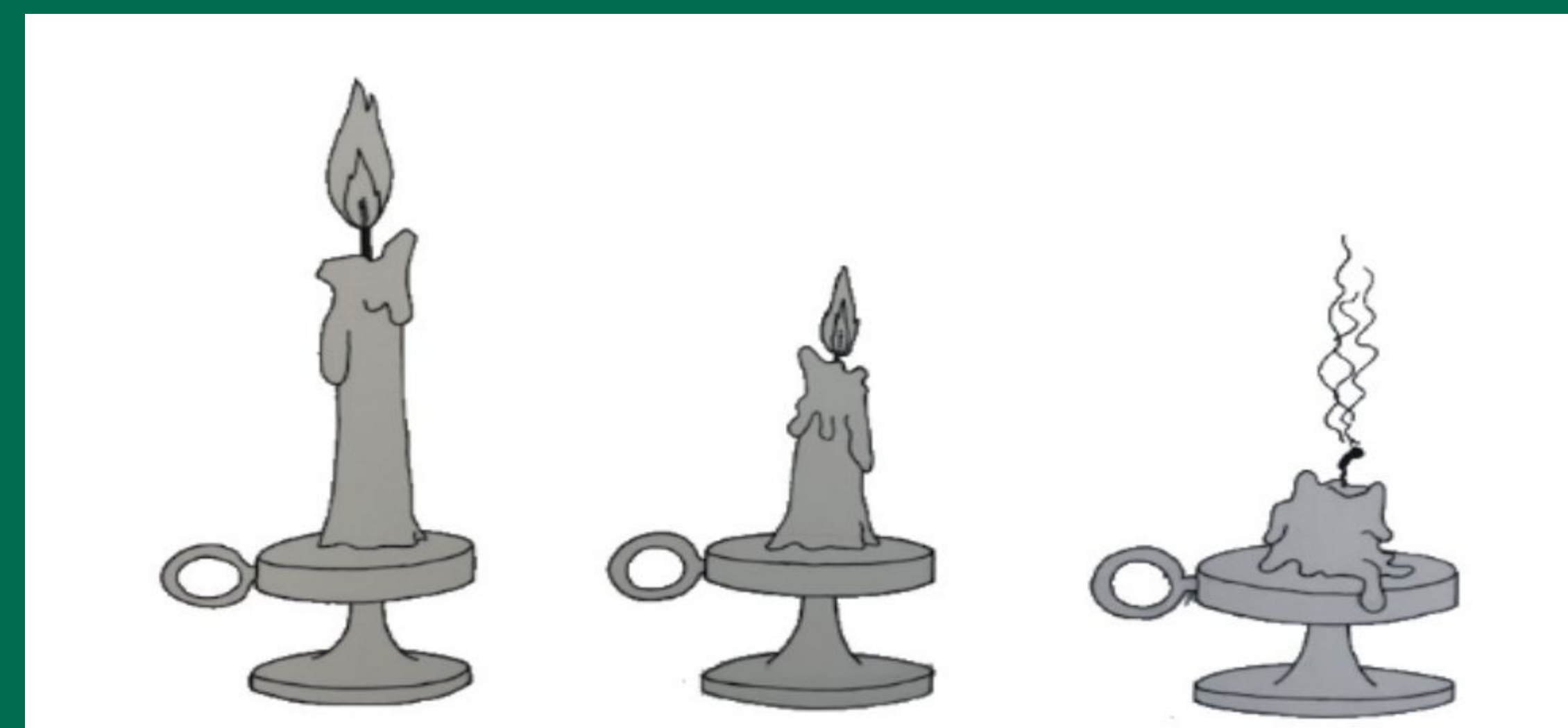
METHODS

- ❑ Focus groups of 3-5 students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade
- ❑ First focus group
 - ❑ Look at existing tool
 - ❑ Asked “When you see this picture, what feelings do you think of?” & “Is there a better picture to show this feeling?”
- ❑ Second focus group
 - ❑ Review tool and see if we accurately conveyed their opinions from the first meeting.

Focus Groups with School Age Children for Development of a Pediatric Wellbeing

Picture Scale

Sara Bocian, Julia Cavalieri, Julia DeMartino, Kelly Hu, Kathryn Jones, Madison Kozlowski, Judith Quaranta



Examples of pictures developed for the tool after the first focus group to better capture emotions school age children feel on a daily basis.

CHALLENGES WITH VIRTUAL FOCUS GROUPS

- ❑ Time management; Consent and assent forms online; coordinating schedules
- ❑ Isolation within zoom rooms causing discomfort
- ❑ Exposure to others in the home may sway answers
- ❑ Possible power dynamic biases
- ❑ Technological difficulties with communication
- ❑ Removal of some social cues due to virtual environments inhibiting exposure of data points

VALIDITY TESTING

- ❑ Face Validity
- ❑ Content Validity
- ❑ Inter-rater Reliability
- ❑ Test-Retest Reliability

CONCLUSION

- ❑ There are many challenges that arise when doing virtual focus groups, especially during a pandemic.
- ❑ Flexibility in dealing with such changes is paramount.
- ❑ Focus going forward is testing validity and revising tool as necessary.

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