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Dental caries continue to be a major health problem for children, particularly those in lower income and socially disadvantaged groups. There are some fundamental issues to consider when considering prevention philosophies namely:

1. Patients who are already caries active need advice and care
2. Patients who are free from disease need information to maintain their healthy status
3. Give prevention a chance to work before undertaking restorative care

In order to develop strategies aimed at maintaining health or reducing risk it is important to have clear understanding of the carious process. This enables the dental team to modify their restorative philosophy to reflect the modern understanding of the way caries can be arrested and remineralised.