|                          | Themes                                       | Sub themes                                | Topics within the theme   |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| Interviews with parents  | Perceptions<br>of SDF                        | Perceived Advantages of<br>SDF            | Minimal child's cooperation required  |
|                          |  |   | Non-invasive stress-free treatment  |
|                          |  |   | The possibility of saving the tooth from extraction   |
|                          |  |   | Promoting good oral health  |
|                          |  | Aesthetics                                | The black staining of arrested lesions  |
|                          |  |   | Minimising the staining to improve acceptability  |
|                          | Factors<br>influencing<br>decision<br>making | Perceptions of others                     | Bullying at schools or nurseries  |
|                          |  |   | Other people's judgment   |
|                          |  | Relative visibility of the tooth          | Anterior or posterior tooth   |
|                          |  | Self-consciousness                        | Child's age/gender's impact on parent's decision  |
|                          |  | Longevity of tooth                        | Conflicting views on when SDF was most advantageous   |
|                          |  | Relative merits of alternative approaches | Saving the tooth from extraction  |
|                          |  |   | Avoiding GA   |
|                          |  |   | Choosing between SDF and HT   |
|                          |  | Preferences & recommendations of others   | Child's preferences   |
|                          |  | involved in treatment                     | Dentist's recommendations   |
|                          |  | Financial considerations                  | The cost to the NHS   |
|                          |  | Child tolerance of treatment              | Child's sensitivity to strange smells or tastes   |
| Interviews with children | Child's<br>acceptability<br>of SDF           | Relative visibility of the tooth          | Anterior or posterior tooth   |
|                          |  |   | Size of the carious lesion  |
|                          |  | Peers' perceptions                        | Fears of bullying by peers at nurseries or schools  |
|                          |  | Previous experience                       | Impact of previous dental treatment experience (positive and negative) on child's treatment preferences |
|                          | Toble 4 The                                  | mas amarging from the interviews          | a with a secretar and abildress   |

Table 1 Themes emerging from the interviews with parents and children