



## Dentists Ranked First in Health Care Jobs

This video resource is provided to help kids learn about what a dentist does and why a career in dentistry is ranked so highly for growth and job satisfaction.

Becoming a dentist requires a person to complete high school and a four-year college degree before applying to dental school. When a person applies to dental school, they will have to show proof that they've taken certain classes (usually science classes), an admissions test score, letters of recommendation, and a personal statement.

After graduating from dental school, a person will receive their DDS or "Doctor of Dental Surgery" credentials and officially become a dentist. Because oral health care is such a diverse field, there are many career paths a dentist can take. A dentist can work in academics (that means teaching or research), in public health or in private health.

Dentists can even specialize—that means taking extra schooling to work in a specific area, like surgery, or pediatrics (that means working with kids!)

Dentists are so important in our healthcare system—they make sure people of all ages have healthy smiles and mouths. And they really love their jobs. In fact, according to U.S. News & World Report, dentists ranked #1 in healthcare jobs because there is opportunity for career advancement, it's an in-demand job, dentists seem satisfied with their work, and it's a constantly changing field.

For kids who are interested in becoming a dentist, here are a few tips:

1. Talk to or shadow dentists to learn about their job
2. Take science classes in middle school and high school
3. Volunteer or participate in activities outside of school that give you the chance to work with patients or meet a diverse group of people

As teachers watch this video, they can ask kids to talk about their career goals or ideas of what they'd like to do when they grow up. Does a job in healthcare sound interesting? Why or why not? This is a great time to encourage kids to explore all their interests and to continue to learn about all the different career paths that are available to them.