



## Sample Questions for Dental Hygiene Interviews

Give us an example of a time you had to be flexible with your work routine. How did you handle that experience?

How important is structure in your day to you?

Give us an example of a time you had to solve a problem on the job.

Tell us about a time you had to do something you were scared to do. How did you handle it?

Tell us about a time you had to do something you hadn't done before on the job and how you handled it.

Describe a time when you exhibited confidence and leadership on the job.

Describe a time you initiated something new in the workplace. How was that experience?

What experiences do you have with trying to change the behaviors of patients and their families? How did that go? If it went well or poorly, what strategies did/will you use in the future?

What experiences do you have working with families from diverse backgrounds and experiences? How do you feel about working with this population?





How will you prepare to best support your patients if you come from different backgrounds?

How recently have you worked with children (or your target population)? What percentage of your recent work has been with children (or your target population)? What was your role with them?

*If the hygienist will be working with children, give a couple sample scenarios and ask how they would handle each scenario. You will be looking for responses demonstrating that they hygienist knows how to talk children through what will be happening, showing them the tools and what will be going on, letting them touch things, etc.*

What challenges do you expect to experience working with medical providers and how would you overcome them?

Have you ever had an experience where you had to integrate and work with a group of employees who were not the same role as you?

How do you handle conflict? Give an example and explain how you handled it.

Tell us about a time where you had to make a budget conscious choice when purchasing dental equipment, supplies, or materials.

How recently have you done sealants on children?

What equipment/instruments would you need to help you make a professional judgement on whether or not to do a sealant? A cleaning? Why?





How do you feel about maintaining your own dental equipment and instruments?

Tell us about your knowledge of scope of practice, regulations, and guidelines and how to stay current with them.

How do you feel about working to the full scope of your practice?

How would you feel about working without the supervision of a dentist?

How do you feel about working without a dental assistant?

How do you feel about sterilizing your own equipment and turning over your room between patients?

How do you feel about using a mobile X-ray unit and mobile equipment?

In this position, you may need to use Word, Xcel and email/Outlook. Give us some examples of when you have used each of these electronic programs. How would you rate your skills with each program on a scale of 1 – 10, with 1 being low and 10 being high?

How do you keep yourself current and aware of dental topics in the news?

Do you have Cavity Free at Three or Smiles for Life training?





Why are you interested in a position in public health?

Why are you interested in a position that is not a traditional dental hygiene position?

What motivates you?

What questions do you have for us?

*The hygienist may wonder how they will keep up their skills if they are doing screenings, education, and fluoride varnish. This is the opportunity to clarify that the vision of the model is that part of the time is in medical doing screenings, education, and fluoride varnish. The other part is spent working to the full scope of practice in their dental room down the hall.*

