

Newspaper in Education Presents

inquiziKidz

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What can you do to prevent bad breath?

Discover the Future

Dental Assistants generally work in dental offices and may perform the following work functions:

Take x-rays

Assist dentist with patients

Take impressions of teeth

Sterilize instruments

Remove stitches

Apply medication to gums

Polish teeth

Make temporary crowns

Keep dental records

For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:
<http://jobstar.org/tools/career/spec-car.cfm>
 OR
<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/default.asp>



What to do to prepare for a career as a Dental Assistant:

- Stay in school and receive a high school diploma.
- Take courses in science, biology, and anatomy.
- Get certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- Maintain a healthy life style and stay drug free.
- Consider enrolling in the health academy at Manatee High School. Through this program you may be eligible to shadow and intern in dental offices while still in high school. Contact Ms. Sollenberger, Health Academy Coordinator, at 714-7300, extension 2078 for more information.
- In your senior year of high school apply to the Dental Assistant program at Manatee Technical Institute. To apply you must attend an information session to receive all application materials. Call 752-8100, extension 225 for a list of dates and times. Completion of the dental assistant program qualifies you for transfer credit at Manatee Community College towards the dental hygienist program.

Dental Assisting

Why does your dog have bad breath?

by Vickie Miller

When Rover has unbearably bad breath, most of the time it is because he has a mouth disease called a periodontal disease. This can happen when plaque builds up on Rover's teeth until he eventually gets an infection or a cavity. Just like in humans, plaque is made up of invisible germs that live inside the mouth and stick to teeth. Sometimes plaque causes cavities and sometimes it causes a gum disease.

Feeding Rover breath mints will not make Rover's kisses smell any more pleasant. It is the infection that causes the bad breath. The mouth disease needs to be treated, and doggie mints just won't do it.

Very simply, Rover has developed bad breath because more than likely someone has been sneaking Rover candy or sweets, and Rover has not been trained to brush his teeth. The sugars in candy work with the saliva and acids in Rover's mouth, and over time, because Rover doesn't brush his teeth, plaque germs can build up. Plaque can also become hard and turn into tartar, which in turn promotes more decay, and, you got it, more bad breath!

When Rover gets tartar build-up he has to have his teeth cleaned by a veterinarian or a doggie dentist. Can you imagine Rover sitting in the dentist chair cooperating? Not really. Few of us like to visit the dentist, and I can't imagine Rover enjoying it either. To get his teeth cleaned Rover has to be given a sedative to be put to sleep so the veterinarian can safely reach into Rover's mouth.

Rover's bad breath is a good lesson for all of us. Our teeth respond just like Rover's do, and it is important to limit the number of sweets we eat and to brush our teeth at least twice a day. It is also important to visit the dentist regularly to have a check-up and to get our teeth cleaned.

When you visit the dentist one of the first people you usually see is a Dental Assistant. The Dental Assistant is the one who gets us prepared to see the dentist, who makes us feel comfortable, takes our x-rays, and who sterilizes and disinfects the equipment. The Dental Assistant will also remind us how important it is to regularly brush our teeth. By the way, it's not a bad idea to brush your dog's teeth either. It's a little challenging for you and for Rover, but it will keep Rover's teeth clear of plaque build-up.

Just make sure you use only dog toothpaste. Otherwise, dogs may try to swallow human toothpaste, and it may make them sick. Good luck!



kidzbiz Dental Assisting: a good career choice

by Vickie Miller

Erica Hartenstein is a new Dental Assistant who just began working in a dental office. What surprised her most about her new job was how attached to the patients she has already become. Erica has also realized the difference she can help to make in their lives.

One patient, a young father only 24 years old, came for treatment, and his teeth were so bad that they had to pull all of them.

Although this was very traumatic, when he received his new teeth he became a different person. He is now much more talkative and friendly, smiles frequently, and even got a job promotion to Manager.

Erica chose to attend the Dental Assistant program at Manatee Technical Institute for several reasons. After graduating from Palmetto High School she knew she wanted a career in the health field. A big plus was the fact that the classes at MTI are small and only take one year to complete. She also liked the daytime work hours of Dental Assistants.

Erica will graduate in June and is very happy with her new career. The teachers and staff at MTI wish her the best and are confident that she will be successful.

School biz Smile!

by Vickie Miller

"Helping people smile," that's what Ms. Kathy Matthews, Dental Assistant Program Manager at Manatee Technical Institute, says is one of the best things about a career in dentistry. When

people have healthy and natural-looking teeth it gives them more confidence to smile, and when people smile they feel better. Ms. Matthews trains her students to be concerned with the health of the whole person, not just their mouth. She says that dental assistants are one member of an entire health team. That means that they have to be educated and updated on all kinds of health issues. Dental assistants also need to display a caring attitude, be professional, ethical, and trustworthy.

Ms. Matthews loves her profession. She loved working as a Dental Assistant and equally enjoys her current job as instructor and Program Manager. She finds it very rewarding to teach her passion. When Ms. Matthews visits dental offices and sees former students who are happy and successful, it gives her great satisfaction.

She reminds her students and all of us to take care of our teeth because if we take care of them, they will take care of us. They may even help us to smile more.



Erica Hartenstein



Kathy Matthews

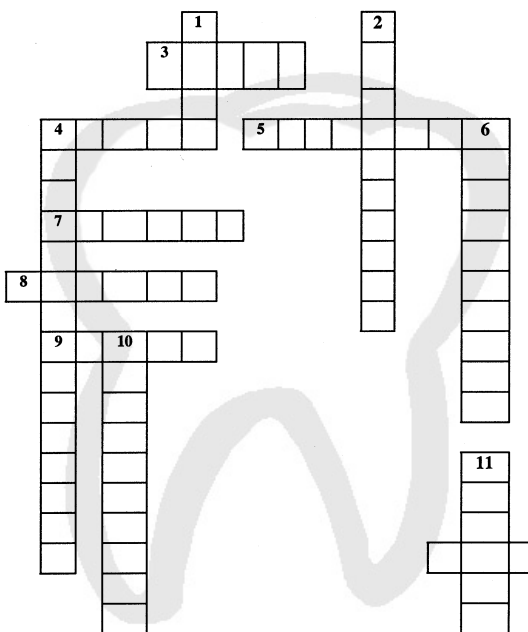
explore it

Across

- What you should do to your teeth after each meal.
- When a tooth rots.
- Holes in teeth.
- If plaque is not removed from the teeth, it can become _____.
- Bacteria on a tooth.
- A sweet substance.
- Opposite of good.

Down

- Kinds of pictures a dental assistant takes of your teeth.
- What you put on your toothbrush before you brush your teeth.
- The person who helps the dentist.
- This process removes germs from dental instruments.
- Most adults lose their teeth because of _____.
- Plaque build up can give you bad _____.



Answers: 3. brush 4. decay 5. cavities 7. tartar 8. plaque 9. sugar 12. bad 1. xray 2. toothpaste 4. dental assistant 6. sterilizes 10. gum disease 11. breath

InquiziKidz page is published every Wednesday in the Bradenton Herald-East Manatee Herald. Provided by Newspaper in Education, Kristin Lamphron, Education Manager (941) 748-0411 ext. 5031 Darren Falterman, Digital Media Specialist © Knight-Ridder Productions, inc.

Manatee Technical Institute

- Sugg Middle School
- Ballard Elementary Magnet
- Daughtrey Preparatory Magnet
- Harilee Middle Magnet
- Johnson Middle Magnet
- Lee Middle Magnet



- Haile Middle School
- Lincoln Middle Magnet
- Manatee Elementary Magnet
- Rowlett Elementary Magnet
- Tillman Elementary Magnet
- Wakeland Elementary Magnet

Schools listed in red offer instruction in the subject area featured in today's InquiziKIDz

webwize

http://www.hosa.org/careers/assistant_bro.asp
www.ada.org/public/education/
<http://bls.gov/oco/ocos163.htm>
www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org

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