

# Being a Pedo Dental Hygienist



Townie loves working with children. What is your niche?

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## lacaza3

Member Since: 02/18/06  
Post: 1 of 16

After a year of temping, I've found my niche in hygiene. When I temp in an office with adults, I just don't enjoy hygiene as much as when I temp in a pedo office. I'm in a good mood at the end of the day in a pedo office and I enjoy the children and the parents. For me, it's more psychological than physical with kids. Working with adults leaves me tired at the end of a day. What is your hygiene niche and what made you pick it? ■

DEC 10 2008

## pedobruher

Member Since: 09/20/10  
Post: 2 of 16

Working with children is definitely a plus. I like the way you said it: it is more psychological than physical. I have worked both general and pedo, and pedo is my niche. I have been with the same office now for 13 years and, yes, we have our issues, (what office doesn't?) but overall, there is so much more satisfaction with young patients than there is with adults. I can give hygiene instructions to a young person and they are more likely to go home and at least try it. Ever try to tell a 40-year-old man how to brush better? The "just do your job and get me out of here" look occurs more often than not. ■

SEP 25 2010

## skr RDH

Member Since: 07/21/07  
Post: 3 of 16

I have to say you two are a gift to humanity! I commend you on your willingness to embrace pedo hygiene. The kids really need a motivated hygienist to understand them and teach them well at a time when their oral health is most vulnerable. But please, don't book them in my column! Sad to say, I don't have the gift to be a great pedo hygienist. My specialty seems to be defusing the anxiety of a certain segment of middle-aged ladies and building their involvement in their oral health. It's heavy on the psychotherapeutic approach. I really take it as a challenge when I see a new patient with a benzodiazepine listed in their meds and it is rewarding work. ■

SEP 25 2010



## joymoeller

Member Since: 09/16/08  
Post: 5 of 16

How about oral myology? I worked 25 years in a pedo-ortho practice not doing hygiene, but thumb sucking therapy and myofunctional therapy. It was so rewarding and many times the kiddos had gingivitis from mouth breathing that I was able to help with. ■

OCT 1 2010



## sfbailey

Member Since: 09/22/10  
Post: 6 of 16

In school we didn't learn knee-to-knee exams and were taught that a child needed to come in at three years old. I don't mind working with kids at all, but I do feel more worn out mentally than when I work on adults. Most of the time, it's the whole family. Mom comes in with her two or three kids and I do hygiene on all of them. Half the time the mom is worn out by the end and the kids are running around the operator, pulling things down or clicking the assistant chair. So yes, I am mentally and physically drained by the end of my afternoon. I just feel blessed to be able to educate patients and help them become healthier. We have one of the best jobs, whether that be with kids or adults. ■

OCT 5 2010



In the early '80s, I was a school dental hygienist for two years, but due to declining enrollment and school closings I was laid off. I loved it. If I wasn't laid off, I could have seen myself doing it until retirement! The RDH I replaced did! To me, everything comes down to behavior modification, whether patients are two or 92, I teach brushing the same way. Both ends of the spectrum have their challenges. Yes the children can be more "mentally" challenging, but the adults are not without their "mentally" challenging days! Teens are very tough and I think getting worse every day. When I started all those years ago, I don't remember the arrogance as prevalent as it is today. Patients, whether young or old, weren't as disrespectful as they are today. They didn't have as much "attitude." ■

OCT 5 2010

**JERSEY DEVIL**

Member Since: 11/04/05

Post: 7 of 16



I worked in Rick Kushner's Comfort Dental Practice doing accelerated hygiene using two assistants out of three operatories. The best part of that job was not seeing anyone under age 15.

I probably make doing pedos harder than it is. I hear my voice going up a notch to that girly sound I use for kids. I am good at customer service, but very exhausted with the wheelbarrow full of TLC that small kids need and deserve. I feel like I am chirping all day. Adults can be reasoned with. Adults have never bitten me so hard that my fingernail turned purple; adults have never vomited on me; adults rarely cry; adults don't need to sit on mom's lap; adults don't require that I turn myself into a pretzel to view their innards. Everyday-all day praise-giving wears me out. ■

MAR 24 2012

**shazammer1**

Member Since: 12/20/00

Post: 11 of 16

I work in a predominantly child-g geared office (though we see adults too, just more kids usually) and laughed out loud reading Shaz's post. Most of the time I love seeing little kids. But just last week I got bitten extremely hard one day, and then had two days back-to-back where a child vomited on me. Boy, does that get old quick. ■

APR 9 2013

**Cavitron**

Member Since: 04/24/11

Post: 13 of 16

I do love seeing children, however my niche is geriatric patients! I love caring for our older patients more than any other patient population. My dream would be to own my own little practice where I could go and care for the patients in nursing home facilities. Talk about no access to preventive dental care — the geriatric population has been forgotten. Shame! ■

APR 9 2013

**VirginiaRDH**

Member Since: 04/09/08

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