



Questions to Ask When Looking for a Dental Office

Finding a dental office that is best for you and your child can be hard. Here are some questions that you can ask a dental office before you decide to make an appointment.

- 1 Is there someone in your office who speaks _____ (for example, Spanish) and can translate?
- 2 Does your office take _____ (your child's insurance plan, for example, Medicaid or CHIP)?
- 3 Is your office now seeing new patients with this type of insurance? When is the next appointment time for a new patient?
- 4 Do the dentist and staff have any special training or experience treating young children?
- 5 Are there children's books or toys in the waiting room of your office?
- 6 Where is the office located, and does any public transportation (for example, bus or train) stop nearby? *Note:* Head Start and some dental offices can help find a ride to and from the dental office.
- 7 When is your office open during the day? Is the office open any evenings or on weekends?
- 8 To prepare for the appointment, what information will I need to know to complete your paperwork? Do I have to bring any forms with me to the dental appointment (for example, an insurance card or a Head Start dental form)?
- 9 What usually happens during a new patient appointment?
- 10 Will my child need to come back for more appointments if the dentist finds a cavity?
- 11 If an emergency comes up and I can't bring my child in for the appointment, what should I do?
- 12 Ask this question if your child has a health problem or needs extra help (for example, autism, cerebral palsy, asthma, epilepsy, or diabetes). My child has _____. Has the dentist or office staff worked with children who have this condition?

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