**Let’s Get Talking!**

**Theme: Going to the Dentist**

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| ***Vocabulary:***  dental patient teeth mouth gum  clean cavity filling crown brace  tongue sink dental light dental chair x-ray  dental nurse toothpaste surgical cap mouth mirror scrubs  dental plate dental hygiene toothbrush mouthwash floss |

Look at the attached picture and ask your child the following questions.

**Questions:**

* *Where is the photo taken?*
* *Have you been to a dentist before?*
* *What happens at the dentist?*
* *Why do we need to go to the dentist?*
* *How often should you go to the dentist?*
* *What might the dentist tell us to do?*

**Activity 1: Sing Along**

* With your child, listen to the song *“Brush along with Budd”* at <https://tinyurl.com/yaerpacp>.
* Discuss the names given to different teeth in the song (crunchers, chewers and biters) and the action words used (brush, clean, shine, sweep).
* Practice singing the song using the same rhythm and word order, and performing actions that reflect the lyrics.
* Encourage your child to create their own “Dental Dennis” puppet to use when singing the song, or as an aid to name the different teeth as named in the song.

**Activity 2: Dental Hygiene Survey**

* With your child, brainstorm a list of questions that could be used to find out how often people brush their teeth, how long they brush their teeth for, whether they use mouthwash and whether they floss their teeth.
* Use these questions to create a survey with family members with options for answers (never, once a day, twice a day, more than twice a day, etc).
* Record the answers in a variety of ways, e.g. a sticky note with the answer written on it, or recording answers using an audio device.

**Activity 3: Personal Recount**

* Take turns with your child to retell an experience you have had when going to the dentist for a check-u, specific dental work such as a tooth extraction, or getting braces or a dental plate.
* Ensure your child includes details about Who, What, When, Where and Why. Sequence the events in order of their occurrence.

**Activity 4: Viewing comprehension.**

* With your child, watch the video *“I Love My Job: Dentist”* at <https://tinyurl.com/j5vk2rt>.
* During or after viewing, discuss the following questions with your child:

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| **Discussion Questions** | ***Possible Answers*** |
| Why did Marissa describe herself as being a “strange kid”? | * She loved going to the dentist as a child. * She loved science classes in high school. * She was always interested in dentistry and other medical topics |
| Why does Marissa have a statue of Herbie the Elf in her office? | * She was inspired by this cartoon character as a child. * Herbie the Elf kept Marissa interested in dentistry throughout her childhood. |
| What challenges does Marissa face as a dentist? | * Getting people to feel comfortable when visiting a dentist. * Getting people to understand the importance of visiting a dentist. * Getting people to understand the importance of looking after their teeth. |
| Why do people avoid going to the dentist? | * They have had a bad experience in the past. * They dislike or fear going to the dentist. |
| Why does Marissa love her job as a dentist? | * She can never get bored with it. * Every day involves something new. * There are so many different procedures on a day-to-day basis. * She gets to work with patients and colleagues. * She gets to use her science and medical knowledge every day. * She gets to be hands-on and creative. * She finds it very interesting. |