

Pediatric Dentist

A dentist for kids only, from first tooth to the teen years. Dental school plus 2 to 3 more years of residency, and a lot of patience.

TYPICAL PAY

\$220,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$140k to \$350k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

10 to 11 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Private children's dental clinics, children's hospitals, dental schools

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Biology, chemistry, physics, math and English with top marks.
- 2 University, then the DAT (dental aptitude test)** 2 to 4 years
2 to 4 years of science courses, then the dental admission test.
- 3 Dental school** 4 years
4 years for a DDS (doctor of dental surgery) or DMD (doctor of dental medicine). You graduate as a general dentist.
- 4 Pediatric dentistry residency** 2 to 3 years, plus any practice years
2 to 3 years at a dental school or children's hospital, often with a master's degree attached. Behaviour management, sedation, treating kids with special needs, and operating room dentistry. Only a few seats per program.
- 5 Specialty exam and licence** A few months
Pass the NDSE (National Dental Specialty Examination), then register as a specialist with your provincial dental college.

Pros and cons

- + High pay with daytime hours
- + Patients grow up in front of you over years
- + Families are loyal, so the practice is stable
- 10 to 11 years of school, and residency charges tuition
- Residency seats are scarce
- Crying, biting and frightened parents, daily

Good to know

First visit by the first birthday

Pediatric dentists recommend a first dental visit by age 1 or within 6 months of the first tooth. Most Canadian kids come much later, which is why cavities are still the most common chronic disease of childhood.

Tooth surgery is the top reason kids go under

Dental surgery to fix badly decayed baby teeth is one of the most common reasons young children in Canada have a day surgery under general anaesthesia. Pediatric dentists do most of it, in hospital oper...

Optional boosts

Sedation and general anaesthesia days. Special needs dentistry. Hospital appointments. A second location.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Pediatric dentists, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Canadian Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
National Dental Specialty Examination: fees
Royal College of Dentists of Canada

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/pediatric-dentist>



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