

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Healthy Smile Vocabulary

**Instructions: Read each dental vocabulary word and its definition. After you are done, arrange the words in alphabetical order.**

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## Dental Vocabulary Words

**Dentist:** A doctor who is specially trained to care for teeth. Your dentist will look at your teeth, gums and mouth to check for any problems. It is recommended to visit the dentist twice a year.

**Molar:** The large teeth in the back of your mouth. We use our molars to chew food.

**Sealants:** A thin plastic coating that can be put on the tops of molars and premolars (the big teeth in the back of your mouth). Sealants get hard and keep food from getting packed in the surfaces of these teeth. They help prevent cavities.

**Tooth decay:** Is the breakdown of tooth enamel. It can lead to holes in the teeth called cavities.

**Cavity:** A hole that forms in a tooth when it decays.

**Floss:** Thick string used to remove food trapped between your teeth and remove bacteria that cannot be reached by brushing alone.

**Fluoride:** A natural mineral found in water that helps prevent cavities by making the entire tooth surface more resistant to decay.

**Fluoride varnish:** A liquid, containing fluoride that is painted onto the teeth and hardens.

**Enamel:** The hard-outer surface of the teeth.

**Plaque:** A soft, sticky, thin layer of bacteria that forms on your teeth all the time.

*Keeping your teeth healthy is one of the best things you can do for your overall health!*