

After working as a dental assistant for a year, I began to wonder which traits make a dental assistant a valuable asset in the practice and not just another one of the thousand that are competing for a job. Talking to my bosses and coworkers, I came to the following conclusions:

When working in a dental office, it is very important to work as a team. Offices face challenges every single day that need to be solved in an effective and proper manner; therefore, dental assistants need to be willing to help each member of the staff and bring their best traits to the practice. Being a team player is going to benefit the flow and workload of the office, so everything can run smoothly.

Being a good dental assistant not only includes traits such as reliability but also having a great and courteous attitude towards patients and coworkers. Regardless of the workload and pressure, dental assistants should not let their feelings and judgment interfere with their performance. Dental assistants are going to deal with different personalities on a daily basis, so it is very important to keep calm and not take things personally.

Dentistry is a field that changes at a rapid pace; consequently, techniques and materials are no longer effective within months or years. As dental assistants, we have a responsibility to improve and update our knowledge and skills by attending seminars or being part of a dental assistant society. The more prepared you are; the better you will be able to show your skills and worth.

So do not forget if you want to be the dental assistant that stands out amongst the multitudes, you need to be a diligent and empathetic person that has a commitment with his/her own professional improvement.