



Emily Woods, Toronto, Ontario

It is with great honour that I nominate Emily Woods as my dental hygiene superhero. Emily and I have been acquainted for 5 years. We first met when she interviewed me for a receptionist position at our current workplace. I shared that I had plans to become a dentist and wanted to gain experience in the field before applying to dental school. Emily quickly took me under her wing and was excited to teach me everything I needed to know. One of the things that stood out to me was that oral health is commonly overlooked in the medical field but Emily's passion for advocating for its importance always bridged the gap. Emily dedicates at least one visit every 2 months to community organizations as a tooth fairy to provide OHE and OHI. She also dresses up as the tooth fairy for children's first dental visits or when she hears that a child has dental anxiety. I remember asking myself, "how does she have the energy to do this!?" I was in my final year of university and wasn't hearing back from the dental schools I applied to - I felt lost and disappointed because I grew a passion for oral health and felt like my dreams of becoming a dental provider were a long shot. Emily sat me down and asked, "why not try dental hygiene and then work your way to becoming a dentist?". Fast forward to today, I am a current dental hygiene grad and preparing to write the board exam this coming May. Emily saw potential in me that I never knew existed, and she has supported and guided me through my dental career path. Through the process of becoming a dental hygienist, I learned that dental hygienists have a very important role in the prevention of diseases (oral, pathological and/or systemic) and recognize that it is a rewarding career. I no longer feel the void of not becoming a dentist as I fell in love with dental hygiene. When you find something, you love doing, you put your heart and soul into the process. After falling in love with this career, it makes sense as to why Emily easily has the energy to dress up in costumes and do OHE and OHI repeatedly - she loves what she does and does it well! She is loved by all her patients and colleagues!

Going to the Dentist can be a frightening experience for many people, however, someone like Emily Woods makes it an appt my whole family looks forward to! From her sunny personality, her taking the time to explain everything, her dedication to her patient's comfort right down to the care she always takes makes her a healthcare Superhero! On top of all that she loves to Don her Superhero costume (tooth fairy wings and all) to visit local schools and daycares to



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educate and prepare children for their first dental visits and the importance of them! As if that wasn't enough, Emily constantly looks for ways to innovate within the practice itself whether it be from promotions that help to attract new patients to ensure that the value adds offered at the practice help to set apart Country Dental from the competition. Emily Woods is without a doubt a Superhero for her practice, patients, and community!

Emily is wonderful. When my daughter who was 3 at the time needed to go to the dentist, Emily dressed up as the tooth fairy to make her feel more at ease. She was so gentle and caring. My kids are now 7 and 9 and love going to the dentist's office to see Emily. I even changed dentists so I can go to Emily. She has patience, she is taking her time and making the kids (and myself) feel very comfortable. Overall, she is a remarkable person, and we love her. She deserves this title more than anyone I know.

Emily is literally the best dental professional ever! She provides painless treatment with such ease and efficiency while still doing an incredible job. Most importantly she makes me miss going to the dentist not dreading it!



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