

AN EARLY ORTHODONTIC EVALUATION CAN GIVE YOUR CHILD THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR A BEAUTIFUL, HEALTHY SMILE.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: When should I bring my child to see an Orthodontist?

A: According to the American Association of Orthodontists, your child should see an orthodontic specialist no later than age 7.

Q: Why is it important for my child to see an orthodontic specialist so early?

A: There are several reasons why it is important for you to bring your child to an Orthodontist at a young age:

- An Orthodontist can detect early developmental issues pertaining to jaw growth and emerging teeth, even while your child has baby teeth.
- An Orthodontist can detect problems that a parent may not notice, even though your child's teeth may appear straight.
- An Orthodontist may identify a developing problem and recommend monitoring the child's growth and development. They can either determine treatment should be started at a later, more appropriate time or that early treatment may be beneficial. This could lead to shorter, less complicated and less expensive treatment. More importantly, early intervention might allow your child to achieve results that may not be possible during later development.
- Early treatment can also allow the Orthodontist to:
 - Improve your child's physical appearance.
 - Guide permanent teeth into a more favorable position.
 - Guide jaw growth.
 - Lower the risk of trauma or injury to protruded front teeth.
 - Correct harmful oral habits like thumb sucking and tongue thrusting.

Q: If my child is older than 7 and hasn't seen an Orthodontist, is it too late?

A: It is never too later to see an Orthodontist. Many adults are orthodontic patients. However, the sooner your child sees an Orthodontist, the better. This allows the Orthodontist to properly diagnose and plan the best course of action for your child.

COMMON ORTHODONTIC ISSUES TO LOOK FOR IN GROWING CHILDREN

If you notice any of the following conditions with your child, you should schedule an appointment to see an Orthodontist:



Crossbite



Partial Anterior Crossbite



Crowding



Deep Bite



Open Bite



Spacing

Other conditions that may benefit from early diagnosis and referral to an orthodontic specialist are listed below.

- Oral habits (sucking on thumb or fingers or tongue thrusting)
- Early or late loss of baby teeth
- Speech difficulties
- Biting the sides or the roof of the mouth
- Facial imbalance/asymmetry
- Grinding or clenching of the teeth (bruxism)
- Difficulty in chewing or biting
- Extensive mouth breathing
- Shifting or clicking in jaw joints

Final treatment decisions should be a team approach made by the child, the parent, the child's dentist and an Orthodontist.



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