

Problems to Watch for in Growing Children

Certain orthodontic problems such as those displayed below may benefit from an early orthodontic check-up. Your orthodontist will undertake a complete evaluation and advise you on what to do.

Crossbite of front teeth

Top teeth are behind bottom teeth



Crossbite of back teeth

Top teeth are to the inside of bottom teeth



Deep bite



Open bite

Front teeth do not meet when back teeth are closed



Spacing



Crowding



Under bite

Lower teeth sit in front of upper teeth when teeth are closed



Protrusion



Other orthodontic problems that may benefit from an early orthodontic check-up:

Early or late loss of baby teeth

Difficulty in chewing or biting

Teeth that are slow to erupt

Mouth breathing

Facial imbalance

Biting the cheek or the roof of the mouth

Oral habits (e.g. thumb-sucking)

Grinding or clenching of the teeth

The Right Time

For an Orthodontic Check-up

The ideal age at which to see an Orthodontist is around 8 years old.

- * An early check-up with an Orthodontist will often reveal that everything is developing normally. However, if there is an underlying problem, frequently it can go unnoticed. An orthodontic check-up will identify the problem before it becomes more severe.
- * Often all that is needed is close monitoring of growth and development to assess the ideal time for treatment. For many patients, it is best to wait until further growth has occurred or more permanent teeth have erupted into the mouth.
- * In some cases the Orthodontist will recommend early treatment to prevent a problem from occurring or to limit the extent of a developing problem, making future treatment easier or shorter.
- * Some indications for early treatment may involve:
 - Correction of a habit (e.g. thumb-sucking)
 - Limiting dental trauma from a deep-bite or protruding teeth
 - Guidance of jaw growth
 - Improve the position of teeth for improved dental function and aesthetics
 - Widen the upper jaw to help the face grow symmetrically
 - Treatment to help teeth erupt into the correct position in the mouth

If you have any concerns about your child's dental or facial development, please contact our office for a complimentary consultation.

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