Early Orthodontic Treatment

LIVE
LIFE
SMILING!

Why Your Child Should Get An Orthodontic Check-up No Later than Age 7:

Even though most people think of pre-teens and teens when they think of braces, there are good reasons your child should get an orthodontic evaluation much sooner. The American Association of Orthodontists recommends a check up with an orthodontic specialist no later than age 7.

1. Orthodontists can spot subtle problems with jaw growth and emerging teeth while some baby teeth are still present.

2. While your child's teeth may appear to be straight, that does not always mean they have a healthy bite.

3. The orthodontist may identify a developing problem during the first check up. The recommended treatment may mean simply monitoring growth and development in order to begin treatment at the ideal time for your child. In other cases, the orthodontist may determine your child would benefit from early treatment and begin a short, 6-9 month, "Phase1" treatment right away.

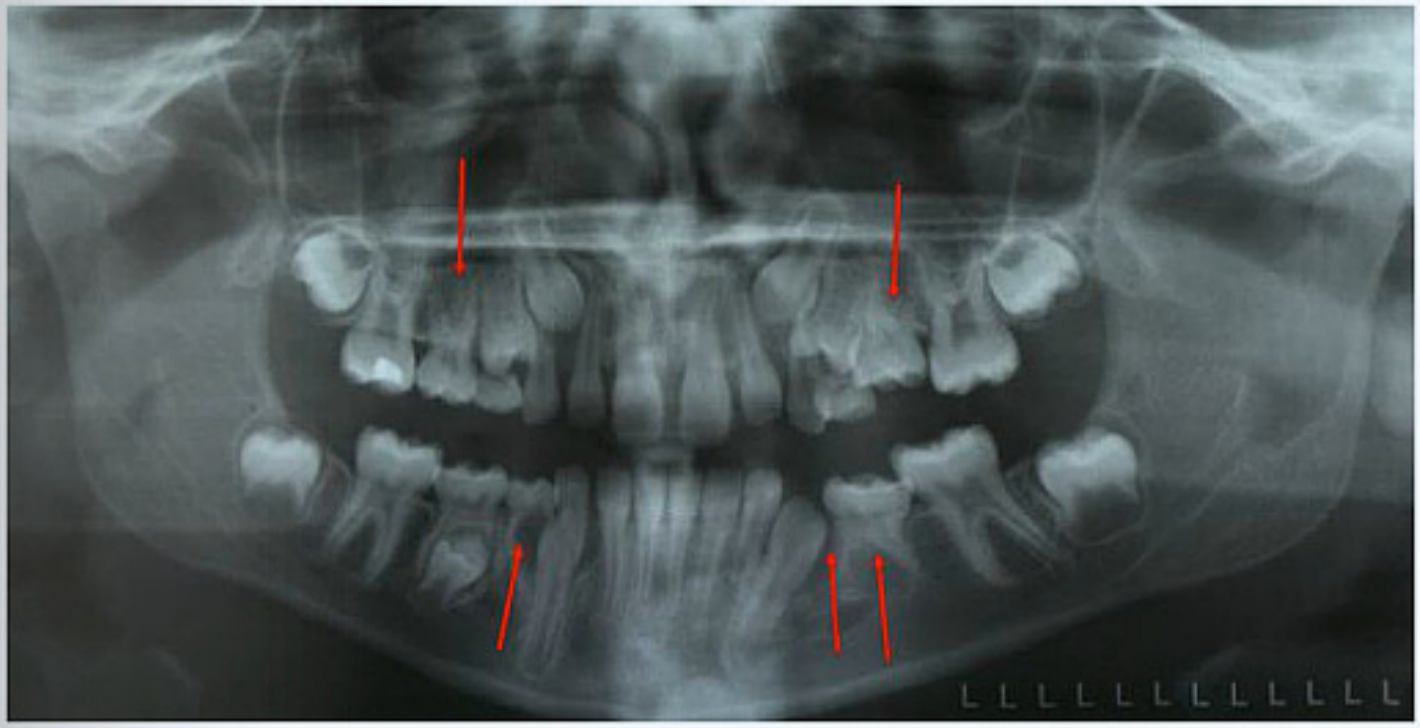
4. Early treatment may prevent more serious and at times, irreversible problems from developing and may make treatment at a later age shorter and less complicated.

5. In some cases, the orthodontist will be able to achieve results that may not be possible once the face and jaws have finished growing.

6. Early treatment may give your orthodontist the chance to:
   - guide jaw growth
   - decrease the risk of trauma to protruded front teeth
   - correct harmful oral habits
   - improve appearance
   - reduce the amount of relapse later
   - improve the way lips meet

Screen Early

Missing Permanent Teeth



This orthodontic screening panoramic radiograph taken at the age of 8 years old revealed 5 missing permanent teeth.
Early discovery is the key to having more treatment options and possibilities as well as time to plan the best option for the condition.
In this case, to be better prepared when the time comes for replacement teeth.

A Star is Born

Thumb Habit

Bone is deforming

After Habit Appliance

A thumb or finger habit can be a powerful orthodontic appliance causing the teeth to protrude and the upper jaw to deform. When caught early a severe discrepancy is corrected through two phases of orthodontic treatment

Only about 20%
need braces twice

Crossbite/Expansion

On your left you see the crossbite where, the upper teeth are fitting inside the lowers, causing crowding, irregular tooth positions, and a functional shift of the lower jaw to the patient's left

A 6-9 month treatment at age 9 using a fixed expansion device and a few upper braces, corrected the serious problems and allows the permanent teeth to erupt into better positions with no need for permanent tooth extractions.

No longer needing to shift the jaw in order to function results in a better growth pattern for facial balance and jaw structure.

Pre-treatment

Final Result

After completion of 1st Phase

HAPPINESS

No more "shark" teeth!

"Double Parking"

Baby teeth with the permanent incisors behind them

Gingival stripping

Here the delayed loss of baby teeth due to a lack of space has caused some adult teeth to erupt into unfavorable positions. Unhealthy gingival stripping caused by pressure on the lower right central incisor tooth is evident. A short, 6-9 month Phase I orthodontic treatment will address the permanent tooth position creating an environment where the rest of the incisors are able to erupt in a better position, eliminating the excessive stress on the gum tissue. Correcting this condition early also leads to less relapse later when full orthodontic treatment is completed.

Result after a short orthodontic treatment

Final Result

Celebrate

Getting to the finish without extractions and a fabulous smile!

Severe Crowding

Canine tooth in poor eruptive location

Pre-treatment

After Phase I

Left to its own devices severe crowding can require extraction of permanent teeth.

With an early, 6-9 month treatment, we may be able to make room for all permanent teeth to come in and avoid extractions altogether in the second and final stage of braces.

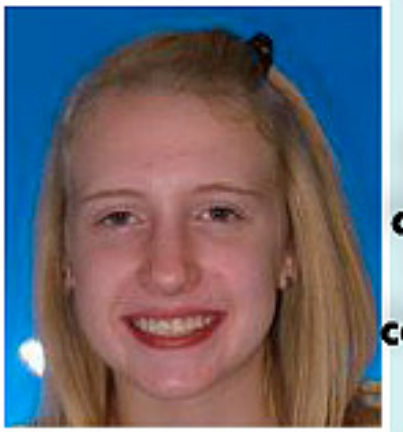
Final Result

Self esteem
increased by 100%

Protrusive Teeth

Teeth are protruding and the lowers are biting into palate and lower lip getting caught behind upper front teeth

Results after short Phase 1 orthodontic treatment front teeth are out of harm's way and moderate upper space closure



Final Results after 2nd Phase completed

Teeth that protrude too far out in the front can be more than a cosmetic issue. Protruding teeth are susceptible to chipping and cracking in a fall or blow to the mouth during sports or play. Very often the lower lip will roll forward worsening the problem. Sometimes the front teeth are protruding so far ahead that the lower teeth may bite into the roof of the mouth rather than occluding with the upper front teeth as in an ideal bite. A short, 6-9 month Phase 1 treatment will correct the immediate problems and make the final stay in braces much shorter with fewer discrepancies to correct.

An early orthodontic exam is
key to
better treatment of this bite

Class III (underbite)

Before

Pictured above, a Class III bite at age 7- upper teeth fit inside the lowers with the lower teeth biting significantly ahead of the uppers

Underbites can be caused by tooth position alone or there may be an underlying skeletal discrepancy. Either way, it is often best to work to correct the issues early with a short, Phase 1 treatment. This will help to protect the front teeth from wearing, improve function, and give the patient their best chance at a non-surgical correction later when full treatment is required.

After

Let Your Smile Shine

Deep Overbite

When the upper teeth cover more than 70% of the lower front teeth you have a deep overbite.

It can be difficult to function properly with the upper front teeth trapping the lower jaw or at the least crowding out the room for the lower teeth to erupt.

Addressing this early with various simple methods like a bite plate or bite ramps can help "open" the bite and make the stay in braces a whole lot shorter and easier when the time comes!

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Airway issues can affect your sleep too...

Airway Issues

Breathing through the mouth can cause protrusive dentition, open bite, and thick, inflamed gum tissue that can ignite periodontal problems.

Other symptoms include: a narrow upper jaw, resting posture of mouth hanging open, abnormal tongue posture/position leading to protrusive teeth and no vertical overlap.

A visit to an ENT for diagnosis and treatment followed by orthodontic expansion can help recreate arch width.

SMILE LAUGH
BE·you·TIFUL
Courtesy Initial Visit

When To See An Orthodontist

If you recognize any of these signs in your child or yourself, it may be time to schedule a consultation with an orthodontist.

Early or late loss of baby teeth
Difficulty of chewing or biting
Mouth Breathing
Sucking the thumb or fingers, or other oral habits
Crowded, misplaced or blocked-out teeth
Jaws that shift, are protruded or recessed
Speech difficulty
Biting the cheek or biting into the roof of the mouth
Protruding teeth
Teeth that meet in an abnormal way or do not meet at all
Facial imbalance or asymmetry
Excessive tooth wear
Inability to comfortably close lips

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