

Age 7 Orthodontic Examination

Why should your child have an orthodontic examination at age 7?

- The posterior bite relationship is established when the 6 year molars erupt. At that time, one can evaluate the front-to-back and side-to-side relationships of a child's bite, as well as discover any abnormal shifts of the jaw & wear of teeth when biting and chewing.
- Permanent front teeth have begun to erupt and problems can be detected such as crowding, habits, over bites, open bites and some facial asymmetries.
- For some, a timely screening will lead to significant treatment benefits; for most, the principal immediate benefit is a parent's peace of mind of know the long term plan...and often, that no braces are needed at all.
- The time and dollars spent for an examination at age seven is small compared to the potential time and cost if small problems are not caught and deflected early on.

The benefits of early treatment

For those patients who have clear indications for early intervention, early treatment presents the opportunity to:

- influence jaw growth in a positive manner
- harmonize width of the dental arches
- improve and normalize tooth eruption patterns
- lower risk of trauma to protruded upper incisors
- correct harmful oral habits
- improve tooth and face esthetics and a child's self-esteem
- simplify and/or shorten treatment time for later corrective orthodontics
- reduce likelihood of impacted developing permanent teeth
- improve some speech problems
- preserve or gain space for erupting permanent teeth—reduce potential for extractions

An early orthodontic check-up can lead to simpler, more effective treatment or, at the least, greater opportunity to plan for future dental health care if needed.