

the whole tooth

At what age should I take my child to the Orthodontist?

The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that children be seen for an evaluation by the age of 7 years. Orthodontic problems may be due to the misalignment of individual teeth or the bone of the upper and lower jaws, or a combination of both.

These problems are primarily caused by genetic factors, bad habits, early loss of baby teeth, birth defects, and accidents. With a careful early evaluation, a beginning malocclusion (bad bite) may be detected and interceptive action taken to reduce the severity of the problem or prevent it from occurring entirely.

Depending on its nature and severity, we may require diagnostic information in order to provide a comprehensive analysis of your child's orthodontic problem. This may include x-ray of the teeth and jaw bones, photographs of the face and teeth, an examination of the mouth and TMJ (temporomandibular joint), a functional analysis of the jaws and bite, and models of the teeth.

Early detection and treatment of an orthodontic problem can improve your child's chances for normal dental growth and development and result in healthier and happier smiles.