American Association of Orthodontists Recommendation For Orthodontic Check-Ups No Later than Age 7

The American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) recommends that all children have a check-up with an orthodontic specialist no later than age 7.

The reasons for this examination follow:

- The posterior occlusion is established when the first molars erupt. At that time, one can evaluate the antero-posterior and transverse relationships of the occlusion, as well as discover any functional shifts or crossbites.
- Incisors have begun to erupt and problems can be detected such as crowding, habits, deep bites, open bites and some jaw discrepancies.
- For some, a timely evaluation will lead to significant treatment benefits; for others, the principal immediate benefit is a parent's peace of mind.

The AAO does not advocate comprehensive orthodontic treatment at age 7. However, interceptive treatment may be appropriate in the kinds of problems shown on the reverse.

Final treatment decisions should be made among the parent, child's dentist and orthodontist.

Resources:

- AAO website, mylifemysmile.org
- AAO members in your area.

American Association of Orthodontists®

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Problems to Watch for in Seven Year Olds

Anterior Crossbite

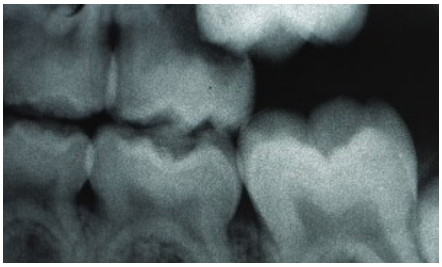
Posterior Crossbite

Crowding

Open Bite

An open bite is usually due to an oral habit.

Protrusion



Ectopic Eruption

Ectopically erupting maxillary molar.

Complete Class III

Diastema

Oral Habits

Malocclusions, like those illustrated above, may benefit from early diagnosis and referral to an orthodontic specialist for a full evaluation.

As a dental health professional, you hold an important position on the dental team. You are often the first to see a patient and first to recognize that the patient may have an orthodontic problem.

The orthodontist's goal is to provide each patient with the most appropriate treatment at the most appropriate time. By working together, the dental team can achieve results for patients that cannot be produced alone.