



# Tooth Talk

## **“Hey Doc, don't you have to wait until all adult teeth have come in before you do braces?”**

Even though many children do not require Orthodontic treatment until all adult teeth have erupted, there are some who can benefit from “early treatment” or “Phase 1 treatment”. This type of treatment, which takes advantage of facial growth and tooth eruption, can lessen the severity of a problem, and it can make the completion of Orthodontic treatment at a later age less time consuming and less expensive.

Early treatment may be beneficial in:

- Eliminating adverse habits such as thumb/finger sucking, tongue thrusting, lip habits
- Correcting cross bite, tooth grinding, tooth interference
- Correcting early malalignment of jaws
- Avoiding fracture or loss of protruding teeth
- Enhancing proper speech development
- Evaluating breathing problems that may adversely affect normal growth and jaw shape
- Allowing for proper eruption of permanent teeth, reducing the need of extraction of permanent teeth for Orthodontic treatment at a later age
- Improving self-image -etc.

Due to the many advantages of early Orthodontic treatment, children are now recommended to be seen for Orthodontic assessment at the age of seven. Because they are growing rapidly, children can benefit enormously from an early phase of Orthodontic treatment utilizing appliances that direct the growth relationship of the upper and lower jaws. Therefore, a good foundation can be established, providing adequate room for eruption of all permanent teeth.



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