

Problems to Watch for in Growing Children

Malocclusions (“bad bites”) like those illustrated below, may benefit from early diagnosis and referral to an orthodontic specialist for a full evaluation.



CROSSBITE OF FRONT TEETH

Top teeth are behind bottom teeth



CROSSBITE OF BACK TEETH

Top teeth are to the inside of bottom teeth



CROWDING



OPEN BITE

Front teeth do not meet when back teeth are closed



PROTRUSION



DEEP BITE



UNDERBITE

The lower teeth sit in front of upper teeth when back teeth are closed



SPACING



ORAL HABITS

Sucking on thumb, fingers

In addition, if you notice any of the following in your child, check with your orthodontist:

- early or late loss of baby teeth
- difficulty in chewing or biting
- mouth breathing
- jaws that shift or make sounds
- speech difficulties
- biting the cheek or the roof of the mouth
- facial imbalance
- grinding or clenching of the teeth

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

Visit the “About Orthodontics” section of the American Association of Orthodontists Web site at www.braces.org