

**All kids should**

**get a screening with**

**an orthodontic specialist**

**no later than age 7.**



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**NO DENTIST  
REFERRAL  
NEEDED**

**FIRST ORTHODONTIC  
SCREENING**

[aainfo.org](http://aainfo.org)

**AGE 7**

# THE RULE OF 7

## WHY CONSULT EARLY?

Early diagnosis is the key to better treatment. Delaying an orthodontic consultation can lead to extended treatment times, cause a potential problem to get worse and limit results.

## EARLY TREATMENT CAN:

- Guide permanent teeth into a more favorable position
- Help develop facial/jaw growth
- Correct harmful oral habits
- Reduce the severity of the case and subsequent future treatment
- Improve your child's bite and self-confidence

## WHAT'S THE BEST TIME FOR TREATMENT?

The best time for treatment is when an orthodontic problem arises, but as a general rule, age 7 is an ideal time to get an evaluation.

AAO orthodontic specialists have the skills and training to detect warning signs and can offer the best treatment at the right age. There is usually an optimal time in your child's life to achieve the best results, so you won't regret getting an early consultation.



# HEALTHY SMILES START EARLY.



## SIGNS THE BITE'S NOT RIGHT

SOME PROBLEMS CAN BE HARD TO SPOT. SEE AN ORTHODONTIST IF YOU NOTICE THE FOLLOWING:

- Crowded, misplaced or blocked-out-teeth
- Thumb-sucking
- Jaws that are too far forward or back
- Breathing constantly through the mouth
- Difficulty in chewing or biting
- An unbalanced facial appearance

*Orthodontists receive an additional two-to-three years of specialized education beyond dental school to learn the proper way to align teeth and correct bites. Only those who successfully complete this formal education may call themselves orthodontists, and only orthodontists can be members of the American Association of Orthodontists. Learn more: [aaoinfo.org](http://aaoinfo.org).*