

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 behind bottom teeth 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.