

Benefits of Early (Phase I) Orthodontic Treatment

Phase I Orthodontic Treatment is beneficial in many situations:

- Disproportionate jaw growth
- Crowded, misplaced or blocked-out adult teeth
- Missing or extra teeth
- Large overbites, underbites or openbites
- Protruding front teeth
- Crossbites
- Oral habits (e.g. mouth breathing, finger sucking or tongue thrusting)

Phase I Orthodontic Treatment presents the opportunity to:

- Take advantage of a child's active growth and dental development
- Redirect growth and guide development of the jaws, and align existing adult teeth so that a proper foundation is established for the remaining (-16) adult teeth
- Improve the bite and therefore function of the teeth and jaws
- Increase the width of the upper and lower jaws to correct a crossbite
- Increase the width of the upper and lower jaws to gain space for the adult teeth
- Lower the risk of accidental trauma to protruding upper front teeth
- Preserve space for adult teeth that may otherwise become impacted
- Guide incoming adult teeth into desirable positions
- Correct harmful oral habits such as finger sucking or tongue thrusting which may cause improper jaw growth and tooth alignment
- Improve abnormal swallowing, speech or breathing problems
- Simplify and/or shorten treatment time for later corrective orthodontics when all adult teeth have erupted
- Reduce or eliminate the need to extract adult teeth later
- Reduce or eliminate the need for jaw surgery later
- Improve esthetics and self-esteem during the pre-teen and teen years
- Take advantage of better cooperation and patient acceptability before the busy teenage years

