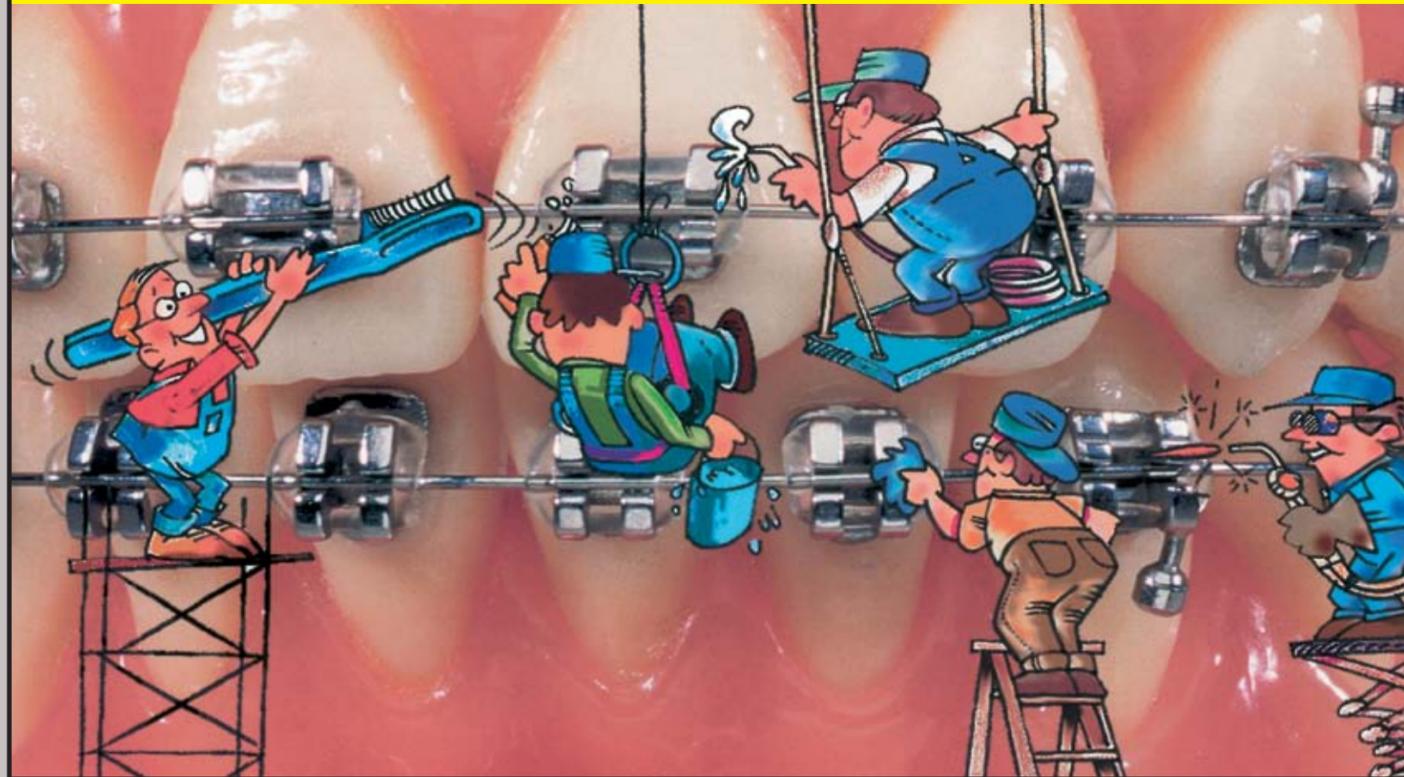


# AGE 7 IS A GOOD TIME FOR A FIRST ORTHODONTIC APPOINTMENT



## FIRST PHASE:

Treatment usually takes 12 to 18 months and a variety of appliances may be used to correct specific problems.

- **Braces** - Placed on the upper and sometimes lower permanent teeth
- **Headgear** - Worn to move the upper teeth back
- **Rapid Palatal Expander** - Worn to widen the upper jaw
- **Face Mask** - Worn to move the upper jaw forward
- **Functional Appliance** - A removable "retainer" worn to stimulate jaw growth



## MAINTENANCE PHASE:

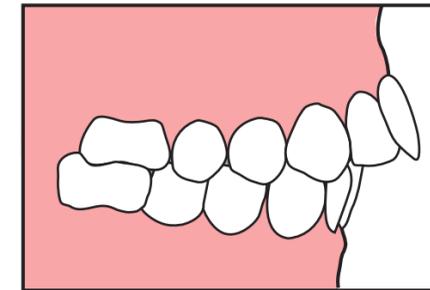
During the time between the first and second phase, the patient will be seen approximately two times per year.

## SECOND PHASE:

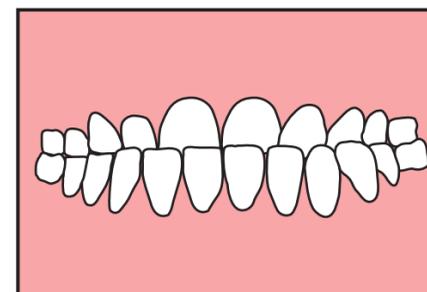
During the first phase the orthodontist has no control over 16 unerupted permanent teeth. If after they grow in, problems still exist, further treatment will be required. A separate fee will be quoted at that time. Treatment usually takes 12-24 months at age 12 to 13 years.

# Early Treatment When is the Best Time to Begin?

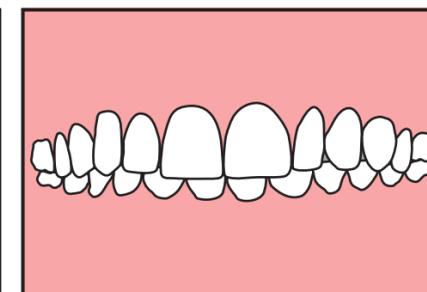
Orthodontic treatment can be started on certain types of tooth problems before all permanent teeth have erupted. Early treatment, usually begun after the four permanent upper and lower teeth have erupted (ages 7-9), is recommended when any of these problems are apparent:



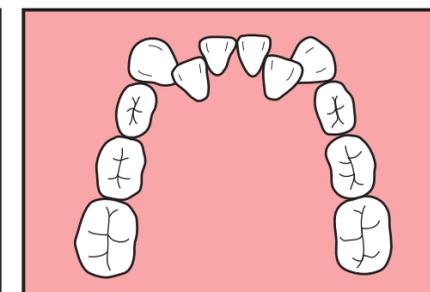
**OVERJET**  
Upper front teeth protrude



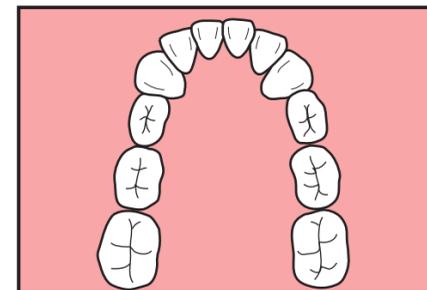
**UNDERBITE**  
Lower front teeth protrude



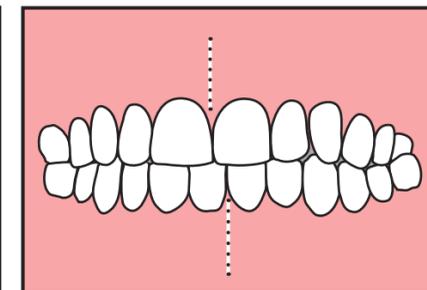
**DEEP BITE**  
Upper front teeth cover lower front teeth too much



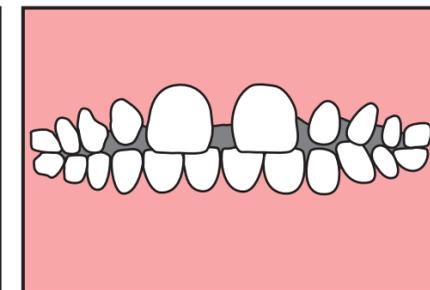
**CROWDING**  
Upper and/or lower teeth are crowded



**NARROW ARCHES**  
Upper and/or lower arches too narrow



**MID-LINE MISALIGNMENT**  
Mid-lines of upper and lower arches don't line up



**EXCESS SPACING**  
There is excess space between teeth

## Advantages of Early Treatment

- Moves the front teeth back so they will be less susceptible to injury
- Improves the relationship of upper and lower jaws, allowing more normal future growth and development
- Uses maximum advantage of growth for successful treatment
- Improves facial appearance and self-esteem
- Takes advantage of the good cooperation of patients at this age
- May avoid or reduce the need for extraction of teeth when patients are older

Note: Teeth renderings are for illustrative purposes only and may vary from actual tooth anatomy.