

# THE RIGHT AGE FOR TREATMENT

**B**oth children and adults can benefit from a beautiful, healthy smile. Straight teeth not only make it easier to brush and floss, they also play an important role in building self-esteem, confidence and a positive self-image.

## CHILDREN

In the past, orthodontic treatment was often postponed until the adolescent years, when all the permanent teeth erupted into the mouth. We now know that many orthodontic problems can be treated earlier and much easier by working with the growth that takes place in younger children. We follow the American Association of Orthodontists' recommendation that every child have an orthodontic evaluation by age 7, or earlier if a problem is detected. Although treatment may not begin at this young age, an early examination allows us to monitor your child's dental development through our "Growth and Guidance" recall program. This recall program is offered to you at no charge, and covers all observation appointments needed until actual treatment begins. We have found that early detection can significantly reduce the need for removal of permanent teeth. Younger children are often more enthusiastic and cooperative, which helps to reduce the total treatment needed to achieve a beautiful smile. In many cases, positive orthodontic results can be achieved which would not otherwise be possible once the face and jaws have finished growing.

## ADULTS

Beautiful healthy smiles are possible for almost everyone, even adults. The biological process of tooth movement is about the same for adults as children. The condition of the teeth, gums, and supporting bone are the three most important elements in deciding if treatment is needed. Properly aligned teeth are not only easier to clean, but can improve a person's self-esteem and confidence. We offer a wide variety options for those with esthetic concerns.



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