

Advantages of Early Preventative and Interceptive Orthodontics in the 5 to 7 Year Old

- A. Provides greater stability for crowding and rotation corrections:
 - a) naturally enlarges arches (4 mm. mean in the lower, 5 mm. in the upper).
 - b) allows collagenous fiber development only after the incisors have erupted straight.
 - c) can utilize the leeway space for additional arch size, if necessary, before fiber development.
 - d) can obtain up to 7.0 mm. of additional arch length.

- B. Provides greater stability of overbite and overjet:
 - a) corrects excessive overjet before full adult incisor eruption and prevents excessive overbite development.
 - b) provides proper upper and lower interincisal contact which prevents supereruption into excessive overbite.
 - c) obtain adequate vertical and horizontal jaw growth in moderate and severe cases.
 - d) eliminates need for depression of incisors and/or eruption of posteriors at later stage of orthodontics.
 - e) normal overbite and overjet established prior to fiber formation.

- C. Prevents TMJ problems from developing:
 - a) prevents deep overbites by limiting incisal overeruption.
 - b) obtain early advancement of mandible and corrects excessive overjets.
 - c) eliminates restriction of free forward movement of mandible during growth which can cause posterior directed condyler growth and displacement.
 - d) discourages bruxism by creating more lateral occlusal excursion.
 - e) prevents development of crossbites.

- D. Converts difficult orthodontic problems of excessive crowding, overbite, overjet and Class II to easy Class I cases:
 - a) what remains are Class I touch-ups which might involve torque, axial incisal uprighting, minor rotations, and some overbite corrections.
 - b) eliminates up to 50% of extraction cases.
 - c) can reduce or eliminate gummy smiles.
 - d) prevents the development of excessive maxillary lingual crown torque.
 - e) creates normal occlusal planes with no vertical variation by controlling eruption of upper and lower posteriors.

- E. Obtains a natural appearance of teeth and smile:
 - a) allows face to naturally grow around and adapt to the occlusion.
 - b) obtains optimum vertical and lateral position of incisors within smile.
 - c) bilaterally coordinates and levels the occlusal planes.
 - d) controls the eruption of the upper and lower incisors to be level vertically with both posterior occlusal planes.

- F. Aids in function and health of teeth:
 - a) elimination of overbite, overjet, and crowding which aid in mastication, digestion and speech.
 - b) reduces risk of TMJ problems.
 - c) increases gingival health and support of incisors.
 - d) reduces risk of root resorption.
 - e) reduces risk of caries from early elimination of crowding.
 - f) reduces risk of adverse swallowing and speech patterns.
 - g) reduces risk of looseness and loss of mandibular incisors.
 - h) can use in combination with fluoride to resist caries.
 - reduces risk of upper incisal trauma due to the early elimination of the overjet.