

Early Intervention Orthodontics for Children - When Your Child Needs More Than a General Dentist

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Description:

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Why Early Orthodontic Assessment Matters

Most parents assume orthodontic treatment begins in the teenage years. But the Australian Society of Orthodontists recommends children have their first specialist orthodontic assessment by age seven or eight. At this stage, a child's jaw is still growing, and early detection of certain problems can make a significant difference to treatment outcomes.

At Core Dental, our general dentists see children regularly for check-ups and preventive care. During these routine visits, they are trained to identify early warning signs that suggest a child may benefit from specialist orthodontic evaluation.

Signs Your Child May Need Early Intervention

Some orthodontic issues are straightforward and can be monitored over time. Others require early action to prevent more complex problems developing later. These include:

- **Crossbites** - where the upper and lower teeth do not align correctly, potentially causing asymmetric jaw growth
- **Jaw growth discrepancies** - an upper or lower jaw that is growing too quickly, too slowly, or unevenly
- **Severe crowding** - not enough room for adult teeth to come through properly
- **Breathing difficulties and mouth breathing** - often linked to narrow upper jaws or airway obstruction
- **Snoring or restless sleep** - which in children can indicate airway compromise related to jaw development
- **Thumb sucking or tongue thrusting habits** - that are affecting tooth position and jaw growth

These are not problems that resolve on their own. Left untreated, they can lead to more invasive treatment later, including the possibility of jaw surgery in adulthood.

What Core Dental Can Do

Your Core Dental dentist is your first line of detection. During routine check-ups, they assess your child's bite, jaw development, and emerging adult teeth. If they identify any of the signs above, they can refer your child directly within the Smile Solutions Group for specialist assessment.

For everyday orthodontic needs, Core Dental provides excellent care close to home across suburban Melbourne. But when the situation is complex, the group's specialist resources come into play.

The Smile Solutions Specialist Pathway

The Smile Solutions Group engages over 80 clinicians, including 25 or more registered specialists across every dental discipline. At the Collins Street Specialist Centre (CSSC) on Level 8 of the Manchester Unity Building in the Melbourne CBD, registered specialist orthodontists work alongside other specialists to manage complex cases.

For children with jaw growth issues, airway concerns, or combined orthodontic and surgical needs, this multi-specialist environment is essential. A child with a significant crossbite affecting jaw growth, for example, may need input from both a specialist orthodontist and an oral and maxillofacial surgeon - a level of coordinated care that no standalone suburban practice can provide.

With over 300,000 patients treated across 33 years, the Smile Solutions Group has the experience and infrastructure to manage even the most complex paediatric orthodontic cases.

The Core Dental Advantage

This is the strength of being part of the Smile Solutions Group. Your child receives their routine dental care conveniently at Core Dental. But when something complex is identified, the referral pathway to specialist care at CSSC is seamless - no searching for external specialists, no waiting for records transfers, no starting from scratch.

If your child is approaching age seven or eight, or if you have noticed any of the signs mentioned above, book a check-up at your nearest Core Dental practice. Early detection gives your child the best chance of a simpler, more effective treatment journey.

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