



IS YOUR CHILD  
**READY FOR**  
BRACES? 



One of the most common questions I get as an orthodontist:  
**“ When should I bring my child in for a consultation? ”**

I understand the difficulty of navigating the muddy waters of parenthood. With two children myself, I'm always wondering if I've missed something about their health and wellness. Most parents remember getting braces in 8th grade, often finishing up in high school.



SO WHY WOULD YOU BRING  
**A SEVEN-YEAR OLD**  
TO AN ORTHODONTIC CONSULTATION?



**TYPICALLY WHEN A CHILD  
COMES IN AT THAT AGE,  
WE JUST WANT TO:**

- evaluate the teeth and jaw structure
- look for speech or breathing abnormalities
- come up with a long term plan
- make sure nothing harmful is being missed



**THE BRACE PLACE**

We have a remarkable practice with a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Our team members are professional, skilled, and passionate about creating smiles. You'll hear a lot of laughter as soon as you arrive and will soon join in: we're committed to making braces fun!

- DR. DAVID KANG



the  
brace  
place



Most kids then go into an observation program. Generally, they are ready for treatment once permanent teeth come in (about age 12).

This consultation can help the child build a bond with the orthodontist and become familiar with the setting. For the parent, there is some comfort in knowing that their child's teeth and crowding are a normal part of growing up.

In a small percentage of young patients, early intervention is required. For instance, someone with a narrow upper jaw that has trouble with

breathing patterns, speech and shows early signs of sleep issues.

But for the vast majority of young patients, we let the parents know that treatment will not be needed at this early age. There could be cosmetic benefits to early treatment, but that needs to be balanced by the increased difficulty of brushing, greater chance for cavities, more school missed for orthodontic appointments, increased cost for the parents, and work missed. And then there's a second round of braces around age twelve again anyway!

If the results will be the same once the full set of braces is completed, it doesn't make sense to go through treatment twice. But we still appreciate the opportunity to get to meet with them at a young age to let them (and their parents) know that they're not missing anything.

- Dr. Neil Wiater



Contact Us: **(541) 382-0410**



Talk to an  
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