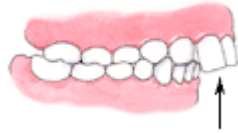


Seven warning signs in 7-year-olds

A dentist trained in orthodontics can answer the following questions when making a first evaluation. These answers are based on visual observation of the mouth and teeth. When you know what to look for, you can answer these questions, too.

1. Do the upper teeth protrude?



Excessive protrusion of the upper front teeth – "buck teeth" – is by far the most common orthodontic problem.

2. Is there a deep bite?



The upper front teeth cover the lower front teeth too much.

3. Is there an underbite?



The upper teeth fit inside the arch of the lower teeth.

4. Is there an open bite?



The child can stick his or her tongue between the teeth.

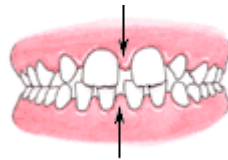
tongue
between the
upper and
lower front
teeth when
the back
teeth are
together.

**5. Is there
too little or
too much
room for
the teeth?**

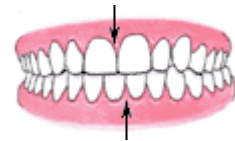


Crowded or
overlapped
teeth...

...or
noticeably
large gaps
between
teeth.



**6. Do the
front teeth
line up?**



The spaces
between the
two upper
front teeth
and the two
lower front
teeth should
line up with
each other
and both
should line
up with the
bridge of the
nose. When
they do not,
the probable
cause is
drifted teeth
or a shifted
lower jaw,
resulting in
an improper
bite.

**7. Is there
a
crossbite?**



The upper
back teeth
fit inside,
rather than
outside of
the lowers.

Seek treatment *earlier* than age seven if your child has:

- difficulty chewing.
 - * open-mouth breathing.
 - * thumb or finger sucking.
 - * overlapping or crowding of erupting permanent teeth.
 - * jaws that click or pop.
 - * biting of the cheek or into the roof of the mouth.
 - * speech problems.
 - * grinding or wearing down of teeth.
 - * obvious abnormal bite development of any kind.
- * narrow arches (jaws) with front teeth appearing very large
- * snoring problems