



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO THE
Benefits of Braces



The American Journal of Orthodontics recently published a study* that indicated that as many as one in three children can benefit from braces or corrective alternatives like space maintainers and palate expanders. Research also indicates that children who receive orthodontic treatment earlier are more likely to see better results. In fact, the American Association of Orthodontists recommends that all children have an orthodontic checkup at the age of seven. This is because by age seven your child's teeth are developed enough that subtle problems with jaw growth and the emerging teeth will be easy to spot and develop a treatment plan for. Keep reading to learn more about the best orthodontic options for your child.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ORTHODONTIST AND A DENTIST

An orthodontist is a dental specialist who can diagnose, prevent, and treat dental and facial irregularities. In order to become an orthodontist, three additional years of specialized education at an accredited university is required beyond dental school. During that time, orthodontists learn the proper way to align and straighten teeth. Sadly, patients can be misled into believing that their primary care dentist is a trained orthodontic specialist. Though dentists may take online or weekend courses that give them a certificate or membership in a dental- orthodontic association, this is not the same as attending an admissions-based accredited university program where training occurs daily over the course of three years. Thankfully most primary care dentists recognize the complexity of orthodontic treatment and refer their patients to an orthodontic specialist. However, there is a minority of dentists who attempt to render orthodontic treatment on their own without the knowledge afforded by attending a university residency training program.



WHO MAKES A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT?

The team of orthodontists here at Molen Orthodontics can help you and your child discover the numerous benefits associated with braces and corrective alternatives. That's because we are a family practice that knows what it means to put family first. With decades of experience, not only will our orthodontic treatment improve oral health and reduce the risk of future complications, it will also give your child a beautiful, natural smile that must be Molen! Let's take a look at some of the ways your child can benefit from the right orthodontic treatment.

CONFIDENCE & SELF-ESTEEM

Ensuring your child has the opportunity to have a natural, healthy smile thanks to braces and corrective alternatives can help to reduce appearance-consciousness during their early years of critical development. As we mentioned earlier, it is safe, encouraged, and beneficial for young children to visit an orthodontist for a check up. As a matter of fact, in the study* that was performed by the American Journal of Orthodontics, young children were shown to have increased self esteem, describe themselves as happier, and have much less anxiousness after having received orthodontic treatment.



This important study was the first of its kind, and is summarized below:

- Children that participated were aged eight to ten
- Children were surveyed before and after treatment
- Half of the participants were fitted with braces and the rest had no corrective treatment
- Of those who wore braces, 80% had their crooked teeth successfully straightened
- Children who received treatment scored higher for emotional and social well-being in post-treatment surveys, showing that they felt far better about themselves overall.

When your family chooses our family, we will walk everyone through our unique orthodontic process. In doing so, we'll ensure everyone's questions are answered so you can be confident that you're making the right decision for your child's self-esteem, and that they're comfortable too!

HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

There are far more benefits to implementing corrective orthodontic treatments for your child than just a natural, beautiful smile. By ensuring your child has the best orthodontic treatment early in life, it will support their healthy oral and overall development.

Orthodontic treatment can correct the width of your child's dental arches as well as influence the shape and growth of their jaws. These corrections can go a long way in positively shaping your child's facial and airway development as they grow, as well as greatly improve their ability to speak clearly.

Did You Know?

The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that all children have an orthodontic check-up by age 7





Most people are unaware that the position of the lower jaw directly impacts your child's ability to breathe freely. In addition, the width of the upper jaw and palate influences their ability to breathe through the nose. Orthodontics done properly can have a positive impact on both of these areas. Our doctors have extensive experience and training in dentofacial orthopedics— an extension of the specialty of orthodontics. Early interceptive treatment using dentofacial orthopedics on growing children allows our doctors to slowly and comfortably increase the width of the palate while also helping the lower jaw grow forward. Addressing these issues early sets children up for success and decreases their risk of developing obstructive sleep apnea or sleep disordered breathing when they're older. Studies have also shown that children that breathe easier while sleeping perform better at school and have improved cognitive development. Braces and corrective alternatives have also been shown to improve oral hygiene in our young patients. This is because proper spacing allows for your child to be more effective when it comes to brushing and cleaning their teeth. This can greatly reduce instances of problems such as cavities, tooth decay, and gum disease, all of which can have larger implications later in life.

ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT: THE RIGHT DECISION FOR YOUR CHILD

When you bring your child to Molen Orthodontics, we'll take the time to determine which treatment is right for them. Our goal is to not only ensure your child has a smile they'll love showing off, but to help avoid the need for more complex, expensive treatment needs down the road. We achieve these goals by using top of the line technologies in our offices, as well as constantly learning and expanding our professional skills.

Molen Orthodontics is proud to go the extra mile when it comes to providing for our patients. Regardless of age, our patients have access to the most technologically advanced treatment options available, and we'll do everything to ensure your child leaves our offices with a smile they love.

Cost & Financing Options

Because the cost of your child's treatment will depend on the complexity of their case, we recommend coming to one of our locations for a **FREE** consultation. Once we visit with you and your child, we'll be able to provide you with a more precise quote.





At Molen, we understand that cost can be an important factor for parents when deciding whether or not treatment is right for their child. We never want cost to stand in the way of a child and the smile they deserve, which is why we're 100% committed to working with you to find a financing option that works within your budget. We take the time to thoroughly explain your options, so we can accommodate you and your specific needs. Orthodontic care is a major investment in your child's appearance, well-being, and health. Because of this, we choose never to cut corners, and only use the highest quality products available. We work hard to be leaders in our field and to ensure your child receives the smile they deserve. Ultimately, we are proud to say that we are exceptional at what we do, and we look forward to providing your child with the smile of their dreams.



TODAY, PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ARE MAKING THE IMPORTANT DECISION TO INVEST IN THEIR TEETH AND OVERALL ORAL HEALTH. NOW THAT YOU KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT MOLEN ORTHODONTICS AND THE SERVICES WE OFFER, IT'S TIME TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP AND VISIT OUR OFFICES!

To learn more about which treatment option is right for you...

**SCHEDULE A Complimentary
Consultation TODAY!**