

# Should I refer to an orthodontist?

## Features of normal development

## Indications for Orthodontic Referral

All permanent incisors erupted  
Overjet and overbite 2-3 mm  
No crossbites or mandibular displacement  
Deciduous canines and molars still in place  
First permanent molars in occlusion  
Symmetrical

6-8 years

Lack of emergence (or absent) permanent incisors  
Overjet greater than 7 mm or less than 2 mm  
Moderate to severe crowding  
Crossbite: anterior (including reverse overjet) or posterior (with or without mandibular displacement)  
Early loss of any deciduous tooth or teeth  
Ectopic molars  
Residual digit-sucking present

In general a good age to take an OPG x-ray  
Maxillary canines may be palpable labially  
OPG or BWs may show absent teeth  
Symmetrical

9 years

All above plus:  
Anterior open bite (ie. no overbite)  
Absent tooth or teeth  
Submerging/ankylosed teeth  
Any other asymmetries

Adult canines should be palpable labially  
Deciduous molars and canines often still present and may be getting loose  
Symmetrical

10 years

All above plus:  
Ectopic or non-palpable canines  
Asymmetric emergences more than six months  
Mild to severe crowding

Canines erupting OK  
Premolars erupting  
Deciduous teeth mobile  
Symmetrical

11+ years

All above plus:  
Greater than ¼ unit class II or III buccal segments  
Overbite greater than 50%

Remember almost 3% have missing teeth and almost 3% have ectopic teeth

