

Eruption Guidance

As a young child's dentition transitions from baby teeth to adult teeth, crowding of the front adult teeth is commonly seen. Since this is a crucial stage of a child's dental development, we feel it should be addressed as early as possible (ages 7 – 10).

1. Eruption Guidance is a simple alternative to a more costly First Phase orthodontic appliance treatment. The treatment merely involves removal of specific baby teeth in a timely manner. No active orthodontic appliances are required.

Eruption Guidance significantly reduces crowding of the permanent front teeth, helps minimize orthodontic relapse in the future, and also helps prevent improper eruption or impaction of the permanent canine (eye) teeth.

Eruption Guidance or First Phase Orthodontic treatment in children will likely not avoid the need for future orthodontic treatment. However, such a program can reduce the severity of a developing problem and lead to a much less complicated orthodontic treatment in the future.

2. The Benefits of Eruption Guidance:

- a) Help to prevent permanent teeth from assuming positions of extreme irregularity/ crowding which can predispose them to future orthodontic relapse.
- b) Minimize abnormal eruption direction and /or eruption sequence of permanent front teeth.
- c) Help prevent abnormal root shortening of permanent teeth.
- d) Help prevent gum recession, usually of the lower front teeth.
- e) Help reduce the complexity of future orthodontic treatment and in many cases reduce the likelihood of permanent tooth extraction.

3. Eruption Guidance is usually started between the ages 6 – 8 (individual variations do occur). The patient is observed at six month intervals with periodic x-rays being taken.