



## WHY CHOOSE ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT FOR YOUR CHILD?

Crooked teeth and jaws can interfere with jaw function and speech, and can lead to long-term dental problems such as tooth wear and gum damage. Orthodontic treatment can fix these problems, setting the foundation for your child's long-term dental health. An attractive smile will also boost self-confidence, helping children to achieve their full potential.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Treatment time depends on the severity of the problem. For most children, treatment can be completed within two years. After braces are taken off, a retainer device is used for preferably the rest of their life, to hold the teeth in their new positions.

## WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD SEE AN ORTHODONTIST?

We recommend that you consult an orthodontist by the time your child is around the age of 7-8 years, so that problems can be identified early and the optimum starting time for treatment can be determined.

## HOW ARE TEETH STRAIGHTENED?

The most commonly used appliance for teeth straightening is braces, as they are the most precise and effective way to straighten teeth. Some problems can be treated with simpler or alternative devices such as removable plates. An orthodontist will be able to advise what is most suitable for your child.

## DOES IT HURT ?

With modern technology, wearing braces is now generally quite easy with little discomfort. The first few days after fitting on the braces, your child may need a mild analgesic, like Panadol, but the discomfort should disappear quickly. They may also feel a their teeth are a little tender for a few days after their regular braces adjustment, usually six weeks apart.

## HOW MUCH DOES TREATMENT COST ?

The cost of treatment will depend on the severity of your child's problem and the type of treatment selected. Your orthodontist can discuss with you the treatment plans and their costs when you have a consultation.

## SHOULD I GET HEALTH INSURANCE?

Health funds repay some of the cost of orthodontic treatment for fund members who have the appropriate level of dental insurance. Please carefully check the premiums, conditions and level of rebate to see whether you will be better off with insurance or not.

## NATURE OF THIS INFORMATION

This brochure provides general background information and is therefore not comprehensive. Everyone is unique and the extent to which this information may apply to you, your child, or anyone else varies. To obtain complete information regarding your specific circumstances, you should seek the advice of your dental professional.