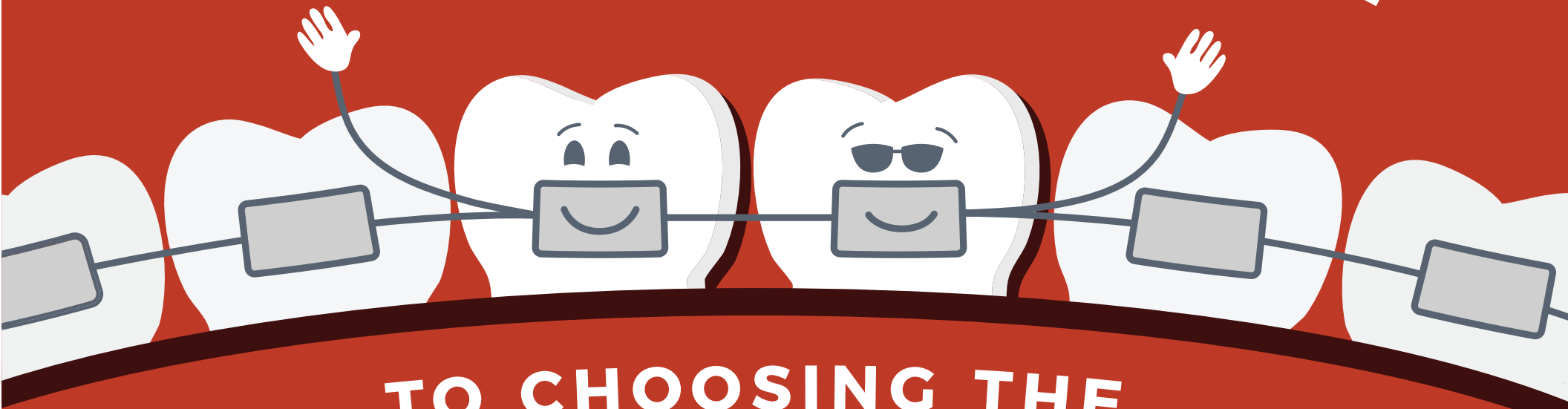


THE PARENT'S GUIDE



TO CHOOSING THE

★ **BEST** ★

ORTHODONTIST

Is it time for your child or teen to get braces? Maybe you've noticed them having difficulty speaking clearly, or even the front teeth sticking out due to a long-gone thumb sucking habit. When it comes to your son or daughter getting braces, let this ebook be your guide.

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Orthodontic Consultation For Kids

Dentists and orthodontists agree that all children should have an orthodontic assessment by age seven. At this age, your child is:

- ➡ Experiencing a change from their primary (baby) to permanent (adult) teeth
- ➡ In a stage of anatomical development that responds to non-invasive therapy
- ➡ Developing growth patterns that will significantly impact his/her future bite
- ➡ In a position where surgery can be avoided for more complex needs

During your child's orthodontic evaluation, your dentist or our orthodontist will examine the way the teeth bite together, jaw development, tooth positioning, and the location of developing teeth. A full-mouth X-ray will also be used to inspect growth of the teeth and bone. **The entire process is as simple as a typical check-up with your family dentist.**

At the conclusion of the exam, our orthodontist will discuss any findings with you and make any appropriate recommendations to address those needs. If treatment is necessary, we will let you know how long it should take and have our financial coordinator go over the costs involved. In some cases, we may even be able to apply the braces on that very same day.

Seeing an Orthodontist vs. Your Family Dentist

There's a good chance that the first place your child ever received a bite evaluation was with your family dentist. As your general practitioner, general dentists are the ideal source for screening for potential bite irregularities or concerns. That being said, your family dentist will likely recommend a follow-up evaluation with our orthodontist if something needs to be addressed.

"What is an orthodontist," you ask? **An orthodontist has two-three years of advanced training in the field of orthodontics in addition to being a licensed dentist.** As such, they have the resources and experience to handle everything from growth modification in young children to complex bite alignment in adults.

Most family dentists who offer braces are only able to address simple cases with one or two different treatment options; whereas we have multiple techniques and advanced technology to manage the condition in a more predictable and efficient manner.

When your child's future adult smile is involved, it's important that you choose the best provider at an early age. Being that our orthodontist focuses on the anatomical and functional aspects of biting patterns, our specialist is better equipped to handle a vast array of orthodontic issues, regardless of a person's age.

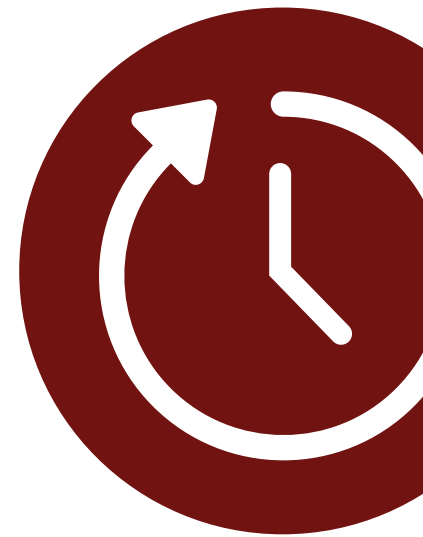
It can also be more cost effective for your child to be treated by our orthodontist. Being that braces and orthodontic therapy are all that we provide, our office can do so in an efficient manner with a lower overhead. This translates into **affordable treatments that fit into your budget**, even though they are being provided by a board-certified specialist.

How Long Will My Child Need to Wear Braces?

At your child's orthodontic evaluation, our orthodontist will be able to provide you with an estimate of how long treatment should take. Depending on your son or daughter's age, this can vary.

Younger children often undergo "Phase I" braces that are worn for about a year to encourage a healthy bite alignment in developing permanent teeth. This can shorten how long Phase II braces are worn in older children or teenagers. If your child does not receive orthodontic treatment until they are older, the length of the therapy will depend on the severity of his or her bite. **Most treatments range anywhere from one to two years, or more if the case is severe.**

One of the best ways to reduce the time your child spends in braces is to follow home care instructions very closely. This includes keeping your follow-up appointments and avoiding foods that could damage orthodontic appliances. As such, you can bypass potential hazards that delay treatment or cause unnecessary relapse in your child's tooth movement.



Interceptive Orthodontics and Growth Modification

Many bite misalignment conditions can be addressed at a young age, before you even realize there is a problem with your child's oral development. **Interceptive treatments aim to encourage proper anatomical development and modify growth patterns in a way that facilitate the best bite maturation process.**

For example, space maintainers help to preserve adequate room for adult teeth to erupt, when they might otherwise have become impacted. Or a Herbst appliance can guide the lower jaw in a way that prevents the need for surgery when your child reaches their teen or adult years.

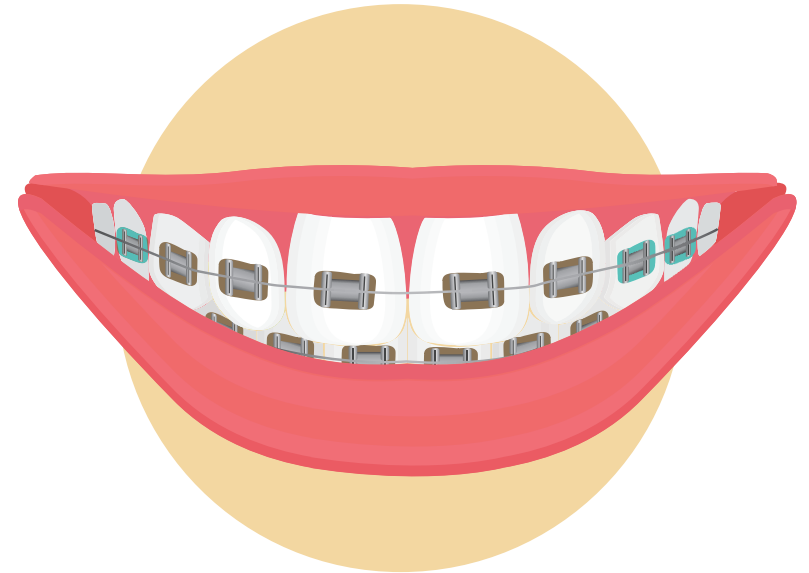
During the consultation, we will address if any type of interceptive or modification techniques are appropriate.



Cost of Children's Braces

How much your child's braces cost will depend on a few different factors:

- ➔ The type of braces being used
- ➔ Estimated length of treatment
- ➔ Additional appliances or therapies involved
- ➔ Whether different phases of treatment are necessary
- ➔ If surgery is involved
- ➔ Your dental insurance allowance



Will Our Dental Insurance Cover My Child's Treatment?

If you're using dental insurance to cover a portion of your treatment, our financial coordinator will provide you with a treatment estimate. **In most situations, your policy will cover a fixed percentage of your child's braces based on a pre-determined dollar amount.** Depending on the type of braces your child is getting, it can impact your total out-of-pocket expense.



Pricing Options for Your Child's Braces

We understand that not all parents are able to pay for their child's braces in full and up front. **Month-to-month financing plans are available. Some of our options include 0% interest to avoid extra fees.** 3rd party financing is also available, as well as an auto-debit system that's linked to your bank account.

Please let us know if you have any questions. Our staff is happy to address any concerns or provide information that you may need to make a decision regarding your child's care.



Complimentary Full Exam

Call (405) 227-0054 to setup a **FREE “Get Your Smile Options” consultation valued at \$249**. This deal will cover a full exam and X-Rays at no cost to you.



Dr. Erickson