

Signs the Bite's Not Right

It's not always easy to tell when your child has an orthodontic problem. Even teeth that look straight may be hiding an unhealthy bite. Here are some clues that may indicate the need for orthodontic attention:

- Early or late loss of baby teeth
- Difficulty in chewing or biting
- Breathing through the mouth
- Thumb-sucking
- Crowded, misplaced or blocked-out teeth
- Jaws that are too far forward or back
- Biting the cheek or biting into the roof of the mouth
- Protruding teeth
- Upper and lower teeth that don't meet, or meet in an abnormal way
- An unbalanced facial appearance
- Grinding or clenching of the teeth

Orthodontists receive an additional two to three years of specialized education beyond dental school to learn the proper way to align and straighten teeth. Only those who successfully complete this formal education may call themselves "orthodontists", and only orthodontists can be members of the American Association of Orthodontists.



In our on-going efforts to keep our patients informed, Stellar Dental Care is pleased to provide this informative brochure.

Five Convenient Offices To Serve You:

4154 McKinley Pkwy.

Near McKinley Mall

716.649.2288

7500 Transit Road

Near Eastern Hills Mall

716.632.5555

2929 Sheridan Dr.

Near Boulevard Mall

716.831.8844

3557 Union Road

Near Galleria Mall

716.651.0099

1165 French Road

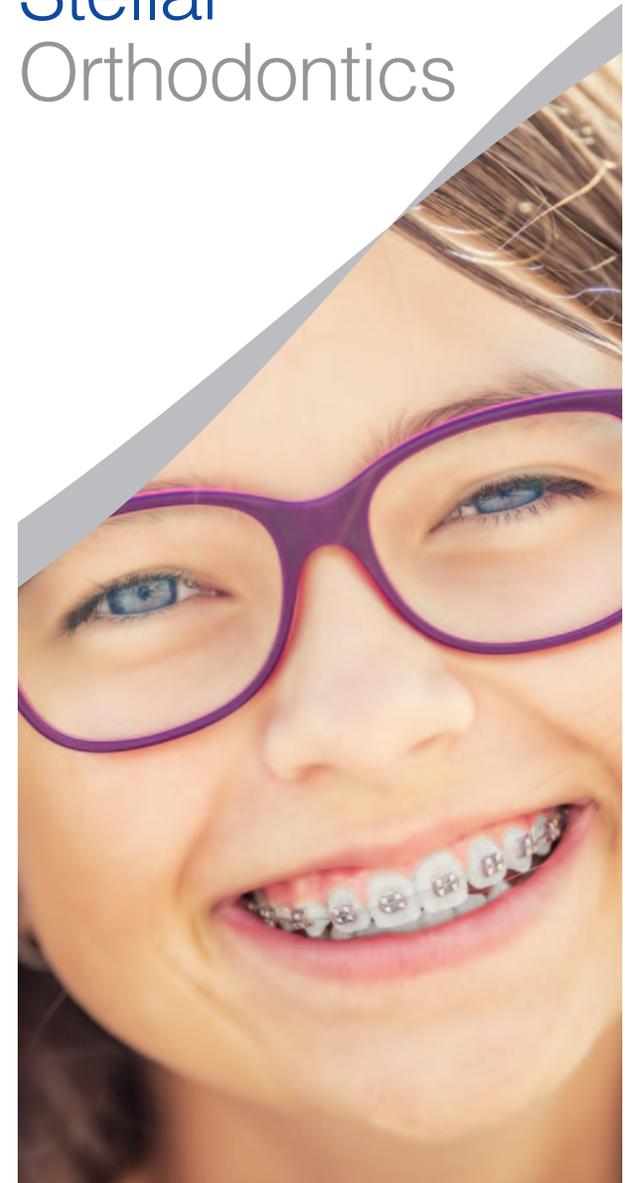
Cheektowaga, Corner of Borden Road

716.274.7777

stellardentalcare.com



Stellar Orthodontics



As a parent, you want the best for your child. That includes healthy teeth and a pleasing smile.



Start with regular dental care. The American Dental Association recommends that a child visit the dentist by his or her first birthday, while baby (primary) teeth are emerging. Your dentist can alert you to any concerns about how the teeth and jaws are developing. But sometimes parents are the first to recognize a problem with the alignment of teeth and jaws.



All Kids Should Get a Check-up with an Orthodontist as Early as Age 7½

To have a healthy Stellar Smile, your child needs teeth and jaws that are properly aligned. We recommend that your child get a check-up with an orthodontist at the first recognition of the existence of an orthodontic problem, as early as age 7½.

By then, your child has enough permanent teeth for an orthodontist to determine whether an orthodontic problem exists or is developing. An early check-up gives your orthodontist the opportunity to recommend the appropriate treatment at the appropriate time. If early treatment is in order, the orthodontist may be able to achieve results that may not be possible once the face and jaws have finished growing.

What will I learn from the first orthodontist visit?

Five essential questions are generally covered during the first exam:

- Is there an orthodontic problem, and if so, what is it?
- What are the options to correct the problem?
- Is there a possibility teeth will need to be removed?
- About how long is the recommended treatment expected to take?
- How much will the recommended treatment cost?

An accurate diagnosis allows your orthodontist to plan every step of your child's treatment so that your child finishes treatment with a healthy bite – referring to the way upper and lower teeth meet and work together. Teeth in a healthy bite are also straight, making for a Stellar Smile.

Choosing the Optimal Time to Consult with an Orthodontist

While orthodontic treatment most often begins between the ages of 9 and 14, some children's orthodontic problems can benefit from earlier treatment. If it appears that your child will need treatment at some point, your orthodontist can advise you about the best time to begin. If early treatment is indicated, it can give your orthodontist the chance to:

- Guide jaw growth
- Lower the risk of trauma to protruded front teeth
- Correct harmful oral habits
- Improve appearance and self-esteem
- Guide permanent teeth into a more favorable position
- Improve the way lips meet

