

# Problems to Watch for in Growing Children

Malocclusions (“bad bites”) like those illustrated below, may benefit from early diagnosis and referral to an orthodontic specialist for a full evaluation.



**CROSSBITE OF FRONT TEETH**

*Top teeth are behind bottom teeth*



**CROSSBITE OF BACK TEETH**

*Top teeth are to the inside of bottom teeth*



**CROWDING**



**OPEN BITE**

*Front teeth do not meet when back teeth are closed*



**PROTRUSION**



**DEEP BITE**



**UNDERBITE**

*The lower teeth sit in front of upper teeth when back teeth are closed*



**SPACING**



**ORAL HABITS**

*Sucking on thumb, fingers*

**In addition, if you notice any of the following in your child, check with your orthodontist:**

- early or late loss of baby teeth
- difficulty in chewing or biting
- mouth breathing
- jaws that shift or make sounds
- speech difficulties
- biting the cheek or the roof of the mouth
- facial imbalance
- grinding or clenching of the teeth

*Final treatment decisions should be made among the parent, child's dentist and orthodontist.*

Visit the “About Orthodontics” section of the American Association of Orthodontists Web site at [www.braces.org](http://www.braces.org)