

## **A Message from Dr. Deepak Jayakumar**

I am Dr. Deepak Jayakumar from The East Benteigh Dental Group.

**I am a general dentist with special skills in Orthodontics acquired during my three years masters training in relation to Orthodontics and Dents special Orthopaedics overseas. I have been with East Benteigh Dental Group for over 3 years now and have completely enjoyed working here and creating beautiful smiles.**

The advantage of our practice is that you can receive a whole range of treatment ranging from your regular dental checkups, hygiene management, orthodontics as well as all your dental needs under the one roof. We work here as a team of experienced dentists to cater for your personal and successful outcome.

I cater to a range of preventative, interceptive and corrective orthodontics. I also specialize in metal/ceramic/lingual braces/invisalign.

Orthodontics isn't just for teenagers with crooked teeth. People of almost any age can benefit from orthodontics. Among those benefits are increased confidence, a straighter smile and relief from pain caused by jaw misalignment.

Many children as early as 5 or 6 years of age benefit from orthodontic evaluation. This helps in some preventative measures.

By age 7, most children have a mix of primary (baby) and permanent (adult) teeth. Children may experience dental crowding, too much space between teeth, protruding teeth and extra teeth and sometimes just growth problems. Some of these problems seen in children may be inherited from their parents. Other malocclusions are acquired and they develop over time.

They are mostly caused by thumb or finger sucking, mouth breathing, dental disease, abnormal swallowing, poor dental hygiene, the early or late loss of primary teeth, accidents or poor nutrition. Trauma and other medical conditions such as with defects may also contribute to orthodontic problems. Whatever the cause, we at East Benteigh Dental group are usually able to treat most conditions successfully.

As part of my training, I am able to identify subtle problems with jaw growth and emerging teeth while some baby teeth are still present. The advantage for patients of early detection

of orthodontic problems is that some problems may be easier to correct if they are found and treated early. Waiting until all the permanent teeth have come in, or until facial growth is nearly complete, may make correction of some problems more difficult. For these reasons, it is strongly recommended that all children get a check up no later than 7 years of age.

When a problem is detected, we may take a “wait and see” approach. We may check your child from time to time as the permanent teeth come in and the jaws and face continue to grow.

Early orthodontic intervention gives your dentist to:

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

For parents it is not always easy to tell if their child has an orthodontic problem. Some signs or habits that may indicate the need for an orthodontic examination are:

- Early or late loss of baby teeth
- Difficulty in chewing or biting
- Mouth breathing
- Thumb sucking

See you soon. Call us on 9575 1100 and arrange a free orthodontic initial consult.