



# 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**

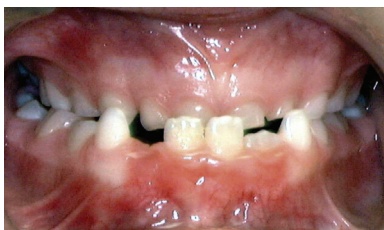
Front teeth do not meet when back teeth are closed



**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 American Association of Orthodontists website at [mylifemysmile.org](http://mylifemysmile.org)