

The Dental Exam - More than just a “Check-up”!



Many parents wait far too long to take their child or teen to see a pediatric dentist. By the time a parent recognizes a dental issue may exist, the issue may have become much more serious and require extensive treatment. Early detection is key!

A thorough oral exam will allow for proper evaluation of:

Medical history and development:

A review of one’s medical history affords us the ability to advise parents about any preventive strategies, in addition to providing some insight as to what to expect in the future when it comes to one’s oral health and development.

The Head and Neck Area:

Inflammation of the glands and lymph nodes could suggest oral disease or infections, and may be the first sign of something happening outside of the mouth.

Jaw Alignment:

Misaligned upper and lower jaw bones can cause issues including the abnormal development of the position of the permanent teeth in the adult dentition and also asymmetric growth of the jaw bones.

Soft Tissue:

The soft tissues of the mouth including the lips, tongue, cheeks and gums will be examined for signs of disease such as redness, swelling or infection.

Teeth:

The onset of cavities, yellowing enamel, damaged or missing teeth may only be the tip of the iceberg. Unchecked tooth decay can create many serious problems including painful infections and cysts, tooth and root pain, and even bone loss. Untreated infection in baby teeth can even damage the developing adult teeth underneath.

Therefore, a dental exam is much more than simple check-up. It is a highly useful way to keep patients healthy through preventive care. A pediatric dentist will spot a wide variety of problems early, before they become more serious. Dentistry is definitely one area of healthcare where *“an ounce of prevention, is worth a pound of cure”!*