

Pointers For Parents Dental Decisions

(NAPSA)—If articles in two of dentistry's most widely read journals disagree on when to start a child's orthodontic treatment, it's natural for parents to wonder what advice to follow.

Should parents of a 3-year old with questionable jaw position and/or crooked teeth agree with the most commonly given advice?



There's no longer one approach to straightening crooked teeth, so it pays to do your research.

"Wait and start treatment later, when the adult teeth come in. The whole problem can then be corrected faster and more economically." This seems to be the golden rule.

Or should parents see an orthodontist who specializes in total long-term early treatment for youngsters—ages 3 to 12—with just one agreed upon fee to be paid over time. These oral health professionals focus on correction through nutrition counseling, enhancement of bone growth and dental facial development, preventing or minimizing breathing difficulties which can cause serious medical problems later on.

With such conflicting expert opinions, parents may be best advised to conduct their own research by reading and visiting Internet sites such as www.rmortho.com/publiceducation before deciding on a course of action for their child.