



CityOrthodontics  
& PediatricDentistry

# What's the Difference Between a General Dentist and Pediatric Dentist?



## PEDIATRIC DENTIST ARE SPECIALISTS

Many parents wonder if they really need to bring their children to a pediatric dentist. Why not save time and bring them along to the family's general dentist?

Simply put, pediatric dentists are specially trained to deal with children.

While a general dentist can still care for your children, there are many benefits to choosing a pediatric dentist.

Pediatric dentists attend three years additional training to specialize in the care of young children. Children's teeth are sensitive and require special attention. Pediatric dentists have specialized knowledge of children's teeth and jaw development and know how to put your children at ease.

Your children will begin their dental care journeys at a young age—the [Canadian Dental Association](#) recommends that children first see a dentist by the time they're six months old and no later than their first birthday. You should then schedule regular dental visits for your children every six months.

When choosing a dentist or pediatric specialist for your child, ask for recommendations from friends and family but more importantly make sure you visit the practice and ask questions.

Here are some factors that set a pediatric dentist apart from a general dentist.

## EXTENDED EDUCATION

The major difference between general dentists and pediatric dentists is their education. General dentists must complete a bachelor's degree and four years of dental school training. Pediatric dentists must complete this same schooling, plus two or more additional years of specialty training.

This extra training focuses on the treatment of developing teeth, children's physical growth, and preventive oral care. Pediatric dentists know exactly how children's teeth and jaws should develop and can provide a comprehensive assessment of all aspects of your child's oral health. They know all about the unique problems children face and will keep an eye out for potential issues. Rapid changes are common during adolescence, and pediatric dentists are trained to care for teenagers as well.

Psychology also plays an important role in pediatric dentistry. Dentists learn about child psychology and behaviour, how to make children feel comfortable, and how to treat children with special needs.

## SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

While it's not a big problem to use standard-sized dental equipment on children, pediatric dentists use smaller tools specifically designed for a child's mouth. Child-friendly equipment ensures your little ones will feel comfortable the whole time they're in the dental chair.

This removes the fear of the unknown and ensures your child doesn't become overwhelmed. There's no such thing as a suction tube or water rinse at the pediatric dental office—your child will meet



the vacuum and get a tooth shower! And who wouldn't want to get pictures of their teeth while wearing a superhero cape?

Using this type of language nurtures a positive atmosphere. Children will understand what's happening while remaining relaxed.

## PREPARED TO HANDLE SPECIAL NEEDS

Understandably, parents of children with special needs are often concerned about bringing their children to the dentist. How can you find the right dental team who's prepared to cope with your child's behaviour if it becomes a problem during treatment?

Pediatric dentists are trained to communicate effectively with children, no matter their individual needs. During your first visit, they'll take the time to get to know you and your child and discuss all your questions and concerns. Pediatric dentists offer extra attention and consideration, so you can rest assured your child is getting compassionate care.



## FUN ATMOSPHERE

If you've ever been nervous at the dentist, just imagine how your child might feel. Pediatric dental offices are friendly, fun, and comfortable. From the games in the waiting room to the flavours of toothpaste, everything is designed with children in mind.

A general dentist's office can be intimidating to children. But when kids feel safe and well looked after, they'll be more confident and comfortable each time they come back for an appointment.

## HELP YOUR CHILD BREAK BAD HABITS

Thumb sucking is nothing to be concerned about for babies and very young children, as most will stop this habit on their own by the time they're three or four years old. Prolonged thumb sucking, however, can have damaging effects on your child's teeth and can cause issues with the growth of the

mouth. It can also lead to speech and chewing problems. The same is true for prolonged pacifier use. If you're having trouble stopping such habits, your pediatric dentist can help.

## UNDERSTAND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEETH AND JAWS

The pediatric dentist is trained to understand the development of the jaws and teeth, what is normal and what is not. They will see a problem years or months before it even shows up. They always think more in depth when it comes to the development of your child. They are very unlikely miss a developmental problem without taking an action, they usually work very closely with orthodontists because of the amount of overlap between the two specialties. Pediatric dentists have additional training in the area of dental development starting with the baby teeth and all the way ending with the permanent teeth.

## PREVENTIVE ORAL CARE

Children's teeth are overall more sensitive than adults'. Kids are more prone to cavities and gum problems, and they are particularly susceptible to tooth decay. Pediatric dentists and general dentists both focus on preventing dental problems to help your child achieve and maintain optimal oral health.

Children generally need lots of help when it comes to taking care of their teeth. Pediatric dentists teach your children how to effectively brush and floss and will help them develop good daily habits. When they learn the proper techniques from a young age, they'll be well on their way to a lifetime of oral health. Pediatric dentists also provide tips to maintain a healthy diet, which is another crucial aspect of good dental health.

Your kids will only visit the dentist every six months or so but will spend time every day caring for their teeth on their own or with your help. You'll want to model positive behaviours for your child so they too will make oral care a priority.



Besides regular brushing and flossing, a pediatric dentist can offer several other treatments that will prevent tooth decay. These include:

- Fluoride treatment
- Sealants
- MI paste
- Space maintainers

Ask your dentist which of these treatments best suits your child's particular needs.

## WELCOMING STAFF

Pediatric dentists choose to work with children. They're passionate about caring for your kids' dental health! They carefully select and train staff members to properly handle and care for children.

From your children's first steps in the door to the moment they leave, the staff members at pediatric dental clinics aim to give your children an enjoyable experience. Staff members interact with children in a playful way, ensuring they feel at ease.



# BEFORE AND AFTER CASES

## CROWDING

BEFORE



CityOrthodontics  
& Pediatric Dentistry

AFTER



CityOrthodontics  
& Pediatric Dentistry

## CROSSBITE

BEFORE



CityOrthodontics  
& Pediatric Dentistry

AFTER



CityOrthodontics  
& Pediatric Dentistry

## OVERBITE

BEFORE



CityOrthodontics  
& Pediatric Dentistry

AFTER



CityOrthodontics  
& Pediatric Dentistry

## CROWDING

BEFORE



CityOrthodontics  
& Pediatric Dentistry

AFTER



CityOrthodontics  
& Pediatric Dentistry



# THE CITY OF SMILES



CityOrthodontics  
& Pediatric Dentistry

**Dr. Richard Caldwell**  
Pediatric Dentist

**Dr. James Lipon**  
Pediatric Dentist

**Dr. Catherine Lee**  
Pediatric Dentist

**Dr. Kevin Chen**  
Orthodontist

**Dr. Saleh Al Daghreer**  
Orthodontist

📍 North

9948 153 Ave NW

📍 Central

#102, 4222 Gateway Blvd NW

📍 South

6444 Cartmell Place SW

☎ (780) 757 - 1001

📠 (780) 758 - 1002

✉ info@cityorthoped.com

🌐 www.cityorthoped.com