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**THINGS  
PARENTS  
SHOULD  
CONSIDER  
BEFORE  
CHOOSING AN  
ORTHODONTIST**

# 12 THINGS PARENTS SHOULD CONSIDER BEFORE CHOOSING AN ORTHODONTIST



Choosing the right doctor for your family's orthodontic treatment is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Researching different orthodontic options, what type of braces are available, or whether aligner therapy such as Invisalign is right for you or one of your family members, is a daunting task. Making a wise decision requires being informed. This guide and the twelve items it composes, will help you in making that most important decision—enhancing the ultimate health and welfare of you or one of your loved ones.

# IS YOUR DOCTOR A SPECIALIST?



A general dentist (often referred to as a family or cosmetic dentist) is similar to your family doctor who provides excellent primary care for your well-being, and aids in disease prevention and treatment. A general dentists' primary focus is checkups, preventative care, filling cavities and performing restorative and cosmetic dentistry. Did you know that all orthodontists are dentists, but only about 6% of dentists are orthodontic specialists? An orthodontist is a licensed specialist who has two to three years of additional education (and often a Master of Science degree), and training beyond dental school, and is an expert in designing smiles by gently and correctly straightening your teeth. Whether you're considering clear aligners or traditional braces, an orthodontist has the experience, training, and expertise to make sure you get your best smile. You won't be treated in an environment in which your dentist is doing a root canal in one chair, and adjusting your braces in another.

# HAS YOUR ORTHODONTIST GONE THE EXTRA MILE FOR YOU?



Dr. Kalange is one of only a few orthodontists in Idaho to be certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics. This means he is “Board Certified” by the American Board of Orthodontics. Not all orthodontists are board certified. A board certified orthodontist has undergone a very rigorous multi-year testing and certifying process and is committed to the highest level of patient care including a comprehensive treatment approach to ensure quality treatment. Board certified orthodontists must re-new their certification every 10 years to demonstrate their continuous commitment to excellence. Also, Dr. K is honored to participate in the continued study and advancement of orthodontics by membership in the Northwest Component of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists of which there are only 800 members in the entire world. All of this means Dr. Kalange has gone the extra mile to ensure the best treatment possible for you or your family member!

# AT WHAT AGE SHOULD YOUR CHILD BE EVALUATED



The American Association of Orthodontists recommends that all children be evaluated by an orthodontist no later than age 7. An early check-up gives your orthodontist the opportunity to recommend the appropriate treatment at the appropriate time. Sometimes early treatment is necessary, and the orthodontist will be able to achieve results that may not be possible once the face and jaws have finished growing. Many children do not need treatment before age 10, however a certain percentage have problems that are treated much better at a younger age. Left untreated, certain problems can become much harder to correct at an older age. Patients who need early treatment have the best results when treatment is divided into two phases. The first phase ('Phase 1') is a shorter phase to help with jaw growth, making space and allowing for proper tooth development. The later final phase ('Phase 2') is to perfect the smile and the bite. It is important to have your child screened early to ensure they don't have a condition that would require early treatment.

# DOES YOUR ORTHODONTIST HAVE A GREAT REPUTATION?



Do your homework! Check social media sites like Google and Yelp to see what others are saying about the office. Ask your friends and neighbors what they have heard about offices in the area. Dr. Kalange has over 25 years of experience in the treatment of orthodontic and dentofacial orthopedic problems. He has a reputation amongst his peers, and in the community for providing excellent orthodontic treatment. Many of our patients believe that it is worth their time to drive a little further to get outstanding treatment quality and excellent customer service.

# DOES THE OFFICE TREAT A FULL RANGE OF PATIENT AGES?



With the advent of clear aligners, esthetic braces, and accelerated treatment, more adults than ever are seeking orthodontic treatment. In our office, approximately 35% of our patients are adults and we have treated several patients in their 80's. Yes, I said 80's. The only limitation to orthodontic treatment for any patient is good dental health. We have yet to find someone 'too old' for treatment. It's never too late to have a beautiful, healthy smile.

# IS YOUR DOCTOR UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY?



Orthodontics, as in any healthcare field, is a rapidly changing landscape. It takes time, energy and commitment to stay abreast of the latest technologies. Dr. Kalange is not only on the cutting edge of treatment techniques, he has been a leader and an innovator in many orthodontic advancements. Specifically, Dr. Kalange is an advocate and educator to other orthodontists in a revolutionary technique for the placement of braces he has developed which is referred to as “iBonding”. This technique puts the braces on the patients’ teeth all at one time using a custom made transfer tray that fits the patients’ mouth perfectly. The result is more comfortable brace placement which is much more accurate. This results in better and quicker treatment. If an orthodontist puts braces on one at a time, get a second opinion.



# ARE THERE AFFORDABLE MONTHLY PAYMENT AND DOWN PAYMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE?



Braces — even with the best doctors — can be affordable. Low-down, no interest payment plans should be available for those that can't afford a large down payment. Extended payment plans should be available for those looking for lower monthly payment options. Dr. Kalange will accept and file your insurance to reduce the out of pocket expense. He will also work with your flexible spending or health savings accounts to allow your payments to be made using pre-tax dollars. If you or a loved one needs treatment, we'll help tailor a payment plan that fits your budget.

# DOES THE OFFICE RUN ON TIME?



In contrast to how our medical colleagues operate their practices, we value and respect your time. Our office works diligently to meet and greet you on a timely basis, and to provide treatment consistent with the amount of time allocated for your appointment.

# IS YOUR TREATMENT PROVIDED IN A COMFORTABLE, CLEAN, MODERN ENVIRONMENT?



We have two convenient locations from which you can choose to have your treatment provided. Both locations are clean, comfortable, ultra-modern environments. You can take a few moments during your family members' treatment to read the paper, read a magazine, sip your coffee, or check your e-mail as we have Wi-Fi hotspots available for your ease of access to the internet. We also have video-gaming for the youngsters. Come to our office to work or play! The choice is yours.

# DOES THE OFFICE GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?



Dr. Kalange is dedicated to serving the local community. He frequently speaks to various local organizations, teaches in-office continuing education courses, and, for many years, has offered an educational field trip program to area elementary schools. In addition, over the years, Dr. Kalanges' office has awarded numerous college scholarships to graduating patients.

# IS IT A FUN OFFICE TO VISIT?



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Beyond an outstanding orthodontic result, we have you and your child's best interest in mind. Orthodontic treatment doesn't have to be an awful experience. It should be fun! Look for the personal touches: coffee bars, video gaming, fun contests, and rewards programs. We do this to show how much we care about making you or your child's experience special. Each visit should be something to smile about!

# IS THE QUOTED FEE ALL INCLUSIVE?



Many offices that seem to be 'lower cost' have hidden fees that pop up during treatment. Broken braces (all patients, kids and adults, have broken braces from time to time), extra visits, treatment that extends past the estimated treatment time, cancelled appointments, Invisalign refinements, retainers and other hidden items can trigger hidden fees at many offices which will raise the price to much more than you bargained for. Be sure to read the fine print and make sure the fee you are quoted is the fee that you will eventually pay. Some offices that seem less expensive upfront actually cost more in the end. Don't be fooled by artificially low 'treatment fees' when the actual total 'out the door cost' might be much higher.



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Orthodontics For Children, Adolescents & Adults