

ED and Teeth

by

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This is a very informal 'first try' at some information or advice for families with an ED youngster. I am a Senior Paediatric Dentist at the University of Bristol and I have had the privilege to work with ED youngsters for about 18 years now. Most British dental schools have someone in a position equivalent to mine who would be very willing to help out with your youngsters problems. The correct way to access these colleagues is for your Dentist (or Doctor) to send a referral, but I expect that you could write direct if you were really at your wits end!

The usual problems which EDs have with their teeth fall into two groups. Firstly, there is often a less than usual number of teeth and secondly, there will be alterations in tooth shape leading to the infamous grin. Management of both of these problems could start from about 3 years of age (or even earlier in particular cases) and usually involves building up the pointed teeth with stick on filling material and replacing the missing teeth with some sort of partial denture.

It really upsets us when we meet 10 and 11 year olds who have been having a hard time at school for 5 to 6 years simply because the message has not got out that Paediatric dentistry could do something to help them.

I hope to contribute to this newsletter a little more fully in the future if I am invited, but I also hope that this note will start the ball rolling for some of you. Please do not hesitate to write to me c/o Diana Perry who will forward all letters onto me. Best wishes for a bright smiley future for you and your kids.

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