



What to Consider When Choosing an Orthodontist for Your Family



Orthodontic treatment is an important investment into a smile that lasts a lifetime. Obtaining a healthy, confident smile improves the health of your teeth, increases your self-esteem and opens opportunities for professional and personal success. Choosing the right orthodontist for you and your family is important for ensuring the best treatment experience, as well as the most ideal result. Here are some key things to consider when deciding upon an orthodontist:

What are the qualifications of the orthodontist?

An orthodontist is a dentist who completes an additional two- to three-year, full-time, university-based residency program in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics. A *board-certified* orthodontist has “gone a step beyond,” by presenting treatment results for critical review by his/her peers. Less than 50% of orthodontists are board certified. To check whether an orthodontist is ABO certified, go to www.americanboardortho.com.

What is the treatment philosophy of the orthodontist?

Orthodontics today can do far more than just straighten teeth. Sculpting a beautiful smile requires careful consideration of facial balance and intricacies of the bite. Each patient is unique and deserves dedicated time spent by the orthodontist to develop an individualized, patient-specific treatment plan. No two patients should have the same treatment plan. Conservative care with the smallest appliances and least-invasive treatment provides the greatest comfort and best result.

Is the office using state-of-the-art equipment and technology?

It is important that your orthodontist is up-to-date with technology and research. Digital x-rays reduce radiation exposure by as much as 90% when compared to traditional x-ray technology. Also, self-ligating braces, temporary anchorage devices, and laser techniques can reduce treatment time, reduce the number of visits, and increase comfort.

How do you feel about the office atmosphere?

It is important that you feel comfortable, relaxed, and well-informed at your appointments. The office should be clean and inviting. It is also critical that the orthodontist and staff prioritize your concerns and preferences when developing your treatment plan.

Additionally, seeing the same orthodontist at every appointment ensures the greatest understanding of your bite and thus the fastest treatment with the most ideal results.



If I had an evaluation or Phase 1 treatment elsewhere, can I schedule an exam, follow-up, or further treatment at a different office, with a different orthodontist?

Absolutely! Each stage of treatment is separate and you are encouraged to explore your options prior to treatment, during a monitoring phase, or when you are approaching the next stage of treatment.

Dr. Stephanie Rhoads is a board-certified orthodontist with a passion for creating beautiful smiles that improve health, confidence, and happiness. At Rhoads Orthodontics, we pride ourselves on providing personalized, efficient and conservative care for you and your child. Dr. Rhoads is trained on the latest techniques, enabling her to achieve the optimal result in the shortest possible time. Additionally, Dr. Rhoads maintains a completely digital office and utilizes all top-of-the-line materials for your treatment.

Our patients are part of our family at Rhoads Orthodontics. We are committed to exceeding your expectations and making your experience with orthodontic treatment enjoyable, while ensuring that all of your questions are answered thoroughly. Your desires take priority throughout treatment to ensure that your experience at our office is nothing short of sensational!

At Rhoads Orthodontics, we are always happy to answer any questions or provide you with a second opinion on a recommended treatment plan. If you suspect that you or your child has a bite misalignment, we encourage you to come in for a complimentary consultation and begin the journey to a confident, healthy smile today!

Call us today at 724.742.2300 to schedule your FREE consultation.



This **Industry Insight** was written by Dr. Stephanie Rhoads, DMD, MBE, MS, Board Certified Orthodontist.

Dr. Stephanie Rhoads practices in Cranberry Twp., Pa., at Rhoads Orthodontic Specialist. She specializes in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics for children and adults, self-ligating braces,

clear braces, orthognathic surgery treatment, and Invisalign.

A place where beautiful, confident smiles are created!

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