

# Definition of Dental Disability

Originating Committee  
Child Abuse Committee

Review Council  
Council on Clinical Affairs

Adopted  
1983

Reaffirmed  
1996, 2003

Revised  
1992, 2000

Dental caries, periodontal disease, and other oral conditions left untreated can limit substantially a child's development and an individual's participation in life activities. A person should be considered to have a dental disability if pain, infection, or lack of functional dentition:

1. restricts nutritional intake adequate for growth and energy needs;
2. delays or otherwise alters growth and development; or
3. inhibits participation in life activities.

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