

# 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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