

X-Rays

DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

X-rays are a useful diagnostic tool in pediatric dentistry. Without x-rays, we cannot verify if a child is cavity-free or if a child has cavities growing on the flossing sides of their teeth. We need x-rays to detect much more than just cavities. X-rays are needed to track unerupted teeth, verify bone quality, evaluate injuries, jaw health and to plan orthodontic treatment.

DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHS

With the advent of digital radiographs, radiation exposure due to dental x-rays is less than half of what it used to be. A routine exam which includes 4 bitewings is about 0.005 mSv, which is **less than one day of natural background radiation**. It is also about the same amount of radiation exposure from a short airplane flight (~1-2 hrs).

MINIMAL RADIATION EXPOSURE

Radiation exposure with x-rays is always kept minimal in the office by use of a lead apron and a thyroid collar. **X-rays represent a far smaller risk than undetected and untreated dental problems.**