

Definition of Dental Disability

Originating Committee

Child Abuse Committee

Review Council

Council on Clinical Affairs

Adopted

1983

Revised

1992, 2000, 2008

Reaffirmed

1996, 2003

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

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