

Definition of Dental Disability

Review Council

Council on Clinical Affairs

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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:

- Restricts nutritional intake necessary for growth and energy needs.

- Delays or otherwise alters growth and development.
- Inhibits participation in life activities.
- Diminishes quality of life.

This definition was originally developed by the Child Abuse Committee of the Council on Clinical Affairs and adopted in 1983. This document is an update of the previous version, revised in 2008.