



We would like to share a little information about...

Space Maintainers

When back baby teeth (molars) are lost prematurely, the teeth on either side of the space created must usually be held so it does not close up. If the space is not maintained, it will be lost, and the permanent teeth will be unable to come in properly. This underscores the urgency and importance of using a space maintainer to prevent such consequences.

If a canine (eyetooth) is lost early, a space-maintaining appliance may also be required.

If a tooth is lost on one side of the jaw, a unilateral (one-side) spacer is used. They are usually described as BAND LOOPS. If teeth or a tooth is lost on both sides of the upper or lower arch, a bilateral (two-sided) spacer is used. These are described as a NANCE HOLDING ARCH for the upper teeth or an LLHA (Lower Lingual Holding Arch) for the lower teeth.

Regular six-month check-ups are not just a recommendation but a crucial part of ensuring the appliance's effectiveness. These check-ups confirm that the appliance is still fitting correctly, the cement has not washed out, and the band(s) have not become loose. If you notice the new tooth erupting improperly under or around the space maintainer, see your dentist as soon as possible for further reassurance.

To avoid the cost and time of replacement, it's essential to be cautious. Please remind your child to avoid sticky foods such as hard candy, caramel, and taffy. Also, discourage them from 'playing' with the new appliance with their fingers or tongue. Remember, if a space maintainer is lost prematurely and cannot be re-cemented, a new space maintainer must be made and charged for.