



GREAT SMILES

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY & ORTHODONTICS

828.274.9220 | GreatSmiles.com

SPACE MAINTAINERS

When back baby teeth (molars) are lost prematurely, it is usually necessary to hold the teeth on either side of the space created so it does not close up. Primary molars typically do not exfoliate until 10, 11, or 12 years of age. If the space is not maintained, it will be lost and the permanent teeth will be unable to come in properly. If a canine (eyetooth) is lost early, a space maintaining appliance may also be required. However, the replacement of primary anterior front teeth for aesthetics, or possibly to facilitate normal speech development, may be indicated.

If a tooth is lost on one side of the jaw, a unilateral (one-sided) spacer is used. Unilateral spacers are usually described as BAND LOOPS or DISTAL SHOES. If teeth or a tooth is lost on both sides of the upper or lower arch, a bilateral (two-sided) spacer is used. Bilateral spacers are described as a NANCE HOLDING ARCH for the upper teeth, or a LLHA (LOWER LINGUAL HOLDING ARCH) for the lower teeth.

Regular six-month checkups are recommended to make sure the appliance is still fitting properly and that the cement has not washed out or the band(s) become loose. If you notice the new tooth erupting improperly under or around the space maintainer, please see your pediatric dentist as soon as possible.

To avoid the cost and time of replacement, please avoid sticky foods such as hard candy, caramel, and taffy. You will also need to remind your child not to "play" with the new appliance with his or her fingers or tongue.



Band Loop

Upper Nance

Lower Lingual Holding Arch