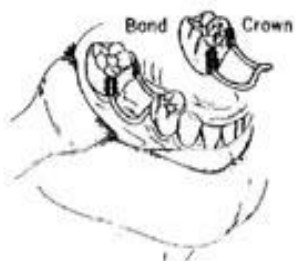


SPACE MAINTAINER

When a tooth is lost too early from an injury or abscess, other teeth may shift into the space and result in a malocclusion or bad bite.

A space maintainer is needed to hold space for the permanent tooth to come in properly after a primary, or "baby" tooth is lost early. A space maintainer for the front teeth will improve the child's appearance and may aid in proper speech development. When a permanent tooth is lost, a space maintainer is also used until a more permanent bridge can be placed.



There are several types of space maintainers:

1. **Unilateral** - These hold space on one side of the jaw, upper or lower



2. **Bilateral** - These hold space on opposite sides of the jaw, upper or lower.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPACE MAINTAINERS:

- ⋄ Please avoid eating hard or chewy foods E.g.: gum, gummy candy, pretzels, bagels, caramel and etc
- ⋄ Make sure to brush around space maintainer properly since food and debris can get caught in the wire and also floss around the wire using a floss threader, you can purchase a floss threader at any super market.
- ⋄ For the first few days your child may have excess saliva and have minor difficulty talking with the new appliance in their mouth, but this is only a short phase and he/she should adjust after a few days.
- ⋄ Your child should try to avoid touching the space maintainer with their tongue or finger, since this will loosen the bands around the teeth and lead to the appliance falling out.
- ⋄ If the space maintainer does come out, please place it in a safe place and make an appointment to come in to our office o have the appliance re-cemented.



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