

RENEE COMMARATO, D.D.S., M.S., INC.
Pediatric Dentistry
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SPACE MAINTAINERS

Your child's space maintainer (spacer) is designed to help hold space after a tooth has been extracted. It has been custom made to fit your child's teeth. It will not move the teeth (like braces) nor will it necessarily prevent the need for braces in the future. However, it is very effective in preventing shifting of the teeth. Please follow these instructions:

1. Do not let your child disturb the appliance. It will feel unusual with the spacer for a few days. It usually only takes a few days for children to get used to the appliance. Your child should not play with it with his/her fingers or tongue.
2. Your child should not have anything that is sticky or gooey to eat. This includes all types of chewing gum and bubble gum, taffy, caramel, Tootsie Rolls, fruit roll-ups, Now and Laters, etc.

The spacer is firmly cemented in place. If it comes loose or comes out, save the spacer and call Dr. Commarato's office.

3. It is important to brush your child's teeth regularly. Brush around the spacer as well. This will prevent a buildup of plaque around the appliance. Be careful when flossing, although flossing should be completed daily.
4. It is important to observe the appliance as your child grows. Dr. Commarato will evaluate the spacer at each check-up appointment.