

## **Space Maintainer**

Your child has just received a Space Maintainer. This metal appliance is designed to hold space for permanent teeth when baby teeth have been extracted. If a baby tooth is lost early or extracted, the teeth on either side could drift into the space. If this happens there may not be enough room for the permanent tooth to erupt. Some permanent teeth do not erupt until a child is 12 years old. A Space Maintainer is cemented into place and is meant to hold the space until the permanent tooth comes in.

### **Proper care of Space Maintainers**

- Watch your child's diet so that sticky foods like gum, fruit-snacks, skittles, taffy and other stick foods are rarely eaten – IF EVER! These will loosen the appliance and it may come out
- Call us immediately if the appliance becomes loose, broken or comes out. We will want to cement it back into place soon, so that valuable space will not be lost
- Brush the space maintainer like you do the rest of your child's teeth. Food may get caught underneath the wires so you may need to spend a little extra time cleaning this area. The cleaner you keep it, the less problems will arise
- Your child may take a few days to adjust to his/her space maintainer. Be sure that your child does not tug or push on the space maintainer with his/her fingers or tongue
- Keep your regularly scheduled appointments, because they appliances need periodic evaluation
- This appliance will eventually have to be removed, when the permanent tooth comes in

We have done our best to provide you with the finest quality oral restorations available today. However, only your continuing excellent oral hygiene and professional recalls can ensure optimum service and longevity.

Should you have any concerns about the space maintainer, please do not hesitate to call our office at (815) 725-5991