

## **CROWN /SPACE MAINTAINER POST-OP**

Please read the information below which will allow you to care for your child's crown(s) or space maintainer in the best manner possible.

**Diet** – Your child should avoid sticky, hard candies (i.e. taffy, suckers, starbursts, caramels, gummies, including gummy vitamins) for the life of the crown. Although it is cemented on to the tooth structure, these sticky foods can cause the crown or spacer to become loose. Sugary foods should be kept to a minimum.

**Oral Hygiene** -To seat a crown correctly, work must be done just below the gumline; therefore, expect your child's gums to be sore for 2-3 days. Your child's gum tissue may bleed upon brushing for the next few days but can last longer with poor oral hygiene. To help with healing, keep the area clean by gently brushing two to three times a day and flossing. Space maintainers will catch extra food debris and plaque so your child will have to make an extra effort in brushing and flossing to maintain healthy gums and teeth. Excess plaque accumulation will result in gums growing over the space maintainer.

**Patient Cooperation** - The crown/space maintainer is not a toy. Do not "flip" the appliance with the tongue, because it may loosen the fit. Do not pick at the wires or bands with fingers.

**Periodic Evaluation** - Patients with space maintainers should be seen by your family dentist at a minimum of every 6 months for routine examination and evaluation of the bite, fit of the bands, and proper tooth eruption. Failure to return for follow-up visits can lead to gum problems, cavities, and crooked teeth. Your family dentist will monitor your child's development and remove and/or adjust the appliance when needed.

**Loose Space Maintainer** - Should the space maintainer come loose for whatever reason, call the office immediately. If the space maintainer is loose enough to come out of the mouth, place it in an envelope, store it in a safe place, then call the office. Many times, a loose space maintainer can be easily re-cemented if the appliance has not been bent or broken, and your child is seen in a timely manner. A long delay in getting in for an appointment could cause the need for the space maintainer to be remade.

**Replacement of Crown/Space Maintainer** – If the crown/space maintainer gets dislodged/falls out, save it in a container and call your dental to have it re-cemented as soon as possible. If the appliance is lost or damaged and new one is needed, the full cost of the appliance will be applied and will result in an out-of-pocket expense.

**Print Name** (Parent or Guardian): \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_