

REMOVABLE APPLIANCE - INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Orthodontic treatment can be initiated on certain types of tooth problems before all the permanent teeth have erupted. This treatment, usually begun after the four upper front teeth have erupted (ages 7 - 9), is indicated when the front teeth protrude so much that the lips cannot be closed without straining or when the front teeth are so crowded or poorly arranged that normal development cannot take place.

Advantages:

- Moves the front teeth back so they will be less susceptible to injury
- Improves facial appearance
- Patient is very cooperative at this age
- May not need further treatment when older
- Utilizes maximum advantages of growth for successful treatment

Disadvantages:

- May require further treatment (second phase)
- If so, total treatment time is longer than if we had waited and made all the corrections at the second phase
- If two phases are required the cost would be greater

Functional appliances are removable appliances that position the lower jaw in a proper position to influence its growth. They must be worn as directed for 12 to 18 months.

Stop those abnormal habits: Thumb sucking, mouth breathing, tongue thrusting, fingernail biting. The teeth can be moved with slight pressure in the right (**or wrong**) direction. Bad habits can cause the teeth to move in the wrong directions. If you play a musical instrument that touches your mouth please inform the doctor!

Clean your teeth before you put your appliance in the mouth. **Clean your appliance** with your toothbrush and warm (not hot) water after removing it from the mouth and put it in the special box provided by the doctor.

Keep your appliance **away from pets**.

Bring your appliance to every appointment.

If any problem occurs with your appliance contact our office as soon as possible.

The quality of the treatment result is dependent upon your effort. The better patient you are the faster we will be through and the better your result will be. To be a better patient you must follow instructions, keep all appointments and give your best effort.