

SPACE MAINTAINERS



Band Loops



Upper Nance



Lower Lingual Holding Arch

When back baby teeth (molars) are lost prematurely, it is usually necessary to hold the teeth on either side of the space created so it does not close up. Primary molars typically do not exfoliate until 10, 11, or 12 years of age. If the space is not maintained, it will be lost and the permanent teeth will be unable to come in properly. If a canine is lost early, a space maintaining appliance may also be required. However, the replacement of primary anterior front teeth for esthetics, or possibly to facilitate normal speech development, may be indicated.

If a tooth is lost on *one* side of the jaw, a unilateral (one-sided) spacer is used. Unilateral spacers are usually described as **Band Loops** or **Distal Shoes**. If teeth or a tooth is lost on *both* sides of the upper or lower arch, a bilateral (two-sided) spacer is used. Bilateral spacers are described as a **Nance Holding Arch** for the upper teeth, or a **LLHA (Lower Lingual Holding Arch)** for the lower teeth.

Regular six-month checkups are recommended to make sure the appliance is still fitting properly and that the cement has not washed out of the band(s) and become loose. If you notice the new tooth erupting improperly under or around the space maintainer, please call us for an appointment as soon as possible.

To avoid the cost and time of replacement, please avoid sticky foods such as hard candy, caramel, and taffy. You will also need to remind your child not to “play” with the new appliance with his or her fingers or tongue.