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SPACE MAINTAINER

Today we placed a space maintainer in your child's mouth where a baby tooth was lost prematurely. This appliance's function is to hold the space for the permanent tooth that will erupt in the future. A space maintainer is a fixed appliance, meaning not removable. It was seated with cement. Dr. Ellis will remove the appliance when the permanent tooth begins to erupt.

Certain foods will need to be avoided to prevent damage to the appliance. Sticky candy and gum can pull up on the loop and cause it to warp. Hard candy and crunching ice can cause the cement to crack and the appliance to become loose. Dr. Ellis will check the space maintainer at your child's check-up appointments, but it is recommended that parents check the appliance monthly, and call the office if you notice any looseness or damage.

Please call the office immediately should the appliance come off, as shifting of the teeth can happen very quickly and prevent the reuse of the appliance.