

End of Active Early Treatment (Phase 1)

Congratulations! Your child's early phase (Phase 1)

This first phase addressed specific bite and crowding concerns and guided the growth of the teeth and jawbones into a improved relationship. Early treatment is focused on improving the bite and creating space for the teeth, reducing the need for permanent teeth extraction. It is important to understand that at the end of the first phase of treatment, teeth are NOT in their final positions. This will be determined and accomplished in the second phase (comprehensive or completion phase) of treatment when all the adult teeth have erupted.

Today, we are entering the observation/retention phase of treatment where our objective will be to maintain the benefits of the early phase and monitor growth and development of the teeth and jaws as the primary teeth are lost. During this phase of observation, your child will wear a vacuum formed retainer.

- We will be scheduling your child for observation/retention check visits at 3–6-month intervals. This will allow us to keep an eye on things and make recommendations as needed.

The comprehensive phase of treatment (Phase 2) will focus on detailing the alignment and fit of the teeth after all or most of the adult teeth have erupted. When this time comes, we will update records and review with you the necessary treatment to meet the goals of achieving a beautiful smile. Our treatment coordinator will discuss the fee for this second phase when the time comes to begin planning comprehensive treatment (Phase 2).

We appreciate your trust in our office in allowing us to treat your child and look forward to working with you during the observation and completion phase of treatment.

Retainers

The retainer(s) you will be receiving are designed to maintain any expansion and hold teeth in their place while your baby teeth fall out and adult teeth erupt. They are made of clear plastic that will cover your palate and teeth. The retainer(s) are heat sensitive and should not be placed in hot water or exposed to any high temperatures (like a hot car). When the retainer(s) are not in your mouth, it is strongly advised to put them in a retainer case.

Wear as Directed: A retainer is a key part of orthodontic treatment. Please wear your retainer(s) as directed by our office to maintain what was gained from Phase 1 treatment. This will prevent loss of expansion and movements gained. These retainer(s) need to be worn at home and at night and full time on the weekends to start. This will be a step-down process. Once ready, you will go down to only night time wear and eventually you will get a break from your retainer(s) as your adult teeth continue to erupt. We will direct you on how often you should be wearing the retainer(s) until then.

Keep it Clean: Carefully brush and floss your teeth and retainer(s) before your retainer(s) are placed in your mouth. Retainer(s) should be brushed in your hand (inside and outside of the retainer) with cool to lukewarm water, a toothbrush and antibacterial hand soap or dish soap 2 times a day.

Handle with Care: If your retainer(s) are not in your mouth, they should be placed in a retainer case and then in a drawer. This will protect your retainer(s) from getting thrown away, stepped on or eaten by your dog.

When to Call: If you feel something is not right with your retainer(s), please call. We may need to trim the retainer(s) occasionally to make them fit better while baby teeth fall out or new adult teeth erupt. ***There is an additional fee for replacement retainer(s). \$175 each***

ALWAYS BRING YOUR RETAINERS(S) WITH YOU WHEN YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT