

LINGUAL ARCH

The Lingual Arch is used to hold space to allow the eruption of all the permanent teeth. It is soldered to the bands that are cemented on your 6-year molars. The appliance is passive, meaning it does not move teeth. Usually, the Lingual Arch is left in place until all of the baby teeth have been lost and their permanent replacements have erupted.

The molars and the incisors might get sore for the first day or two. If the soreness should linger, give us a call, we may need to make sure the appliance is fitting properly.

Sometimes a band can come loose from one of the molars. Usually, this will be evident by the band moving up and down on the tooth. If the band should come loose; push it back down on the tooth, and call the office to get it recemented. If you can't push the band down try to wiggle the appliance up and down to loosen the other side. Remove the entire appliance and call the office to get it repaired and recemented.

On some occasions the solder joint where the wire attaches to the band behind the teeth may come separated. If that should happen, place some wax over the area (or chewing gum if you don't have any wax) and call the office so we can repair it.

You should try to avoid hard foods such as popcorn, hard candies, peanuts, ice, etc. as much as possible. Biting down on something hard could damage the Lingual Arch or knock a band loose. Chewing sugarless gum is okay, just be careful.

Keep the Lingual Arch clean. Be sure to brush all around it, especially around the bands and behind the teeth. Poor care of your teeth could cause gum disease or result in permanent scars on your enamel.

As you lose your primary or "baby teeth", your permanent teeth will erupt in their place. You may notice a permanent tooth erupting under the Lingual Arch wire or touching the wire. If this happens, there is no need to be concerned. The Lingual Arch is usually removed when all permanent teeth have erupted in that arch.

