

OCCLUS-O-GUIDE

For Straightening Teeth Without Braces

What is the Occlus-O-Guide and how does it work? This is a soft plastic device containing sockets arranged in such a way that when the patient exercises with the appliance, the teeth are moved or guided into an ideal position. Jaw growth is favorably enhanced by means of orthopedic forces.

The child provides these orthopedic forces by exercising or biting down into the appliance for a minute, and then relaxing for a half minute for a total of 3 to 4 hours a day and while sleeping. This active treatment usually lasts less than 12 months. If the child exercises as instructed, there should be an improvement each month of about 1mm (1/16 inch) in the overbite. After the correction has been achieved, the appliance wear time is reduced.

What kinds of problems will the Occlus-o-guide correct?

- Overjet (“Buck Teeth”)
- Overbite (Upper front teeth covering the lowers)
- Mild crowding and rotations
- Spaces between the teeth

At what age should the appliance be started? The ideal time for the Occlus-o-guide to be started, in most cases, is when the lower baby canines (3rd tooth from the center) become loose. This is usually between the ages of 8 and 10. If we wait until age 12, there is frequently not enough jaw growth left to fully stabilize the needed correction. Also, by age 12, fibers that hold teeth in place have matured and “lock” the bite problem in place. Guiding the teeth into their proper positions as they grow in will encourage a more stable result.

Will my child still need braces? If your child has cooperated in using the Occlus-o-guide correctly, they will have obtained a significant result. If further work is needed to correct a specific problem, the time in braces is significantly shorter than it would have been with braces alone.

What are the greatest advantages of the Occlus-O-Guide technique? The greatest advantage is the shortened treatment time and therefore, the lower fee (about ½ the cost of full braces). The child benefits from having the bite corrected at a younger age. Additionally, there is nothing that shows on the teeth, so it is not apparent that the teeth are being straightened.



Dr. Ewers & Staff
630-833-1166
www.DentistryForKids.com