

Does my child really NEED an expander???

- Expanders are ONLY recommended in certain situations, and are not necessary for most children that we see. In general, expanders are utilized only in cases where moving the BONES is the proper solution.
- As a child, the upper palate is split into 2 separate bones that can easily be expanded and then filled in with bone during the NATURAL GROWTH process without any pain at all.
- Children who are still GROWING and also have bite problems, narrow arches, severe crowding, or potentially impacted teeth are all good candidates for Phase I treatment.
- BONDED palatal expanders correct problems without TIPPING teeth out of the bone. This a common problem that arises when getting braces too late, after bone development has completed.
- Adolescents that have reached puberty do not respond as well to expanders due to the fact that the FUSION of the PALATAL SUTURE is complete. At this late stage, treatment can be more painful and relapse of the teeth and/or gum recession often occurs.
- Not all expanders work the same. We use FIXED or BONDED expanders because they work the best to widen the palate and create the room that is necessary. ACRYLIC expanders glued OVER the teeth prevent problems with hygiene and decay.

