



PHASE 1 THERAPY

Phase 1 therapy is an early phase of orthodontic treatment that is performed while the jaw is still growing. Phase 1 therapy is done in instances where there may be severe skeletal problems (such as crossbite, excessive overjet, or overbite, underbite, etc.), habit issues (such as thumb sucking, tongue thrusting), severe crowding of teeth, or severe protrusion of teeth that could be accident-prone. Some benefits of phase 1 treatment include, but are not limited to: potentially avoiding the possibility of jaw surgery later in life, setting that stage for a more stable long-term result avoiding the possibility of needing permanent teeth extracted when full treatment is undertaken, and improving a child's self-esteem by enhancing their smile.

Appliances or braces may be placed over baby teeth or just on the erupted permanent teeth. Phase 1 treatment may last a year or longer. Once this phase is completed, the child moves into the retention phase and may wear removable or fixed retainers, which allows the remaining baby teeth to fall out and permanent teeth to erupt. During this time skeletal growth and eruption of teeth will be monitored. After the rest of the permanent teeth are erupted phase 2 may be needed. This stage is usually a "fine tuning" stage, as the arches were prepared in the first phase. Phase 2 typically lasts an average of 18-30 months.

I certify that I have read this document and acknowledge that my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

Signature _____

Date _____