

Biobloc Orthotropics in Primary Dentition - Informed Consent

The Expancer and the Goals of Orthotropics

_____ Impressions of your child's teeth will have to be made on occasion in order to make or modify your appliances. Photos will be taken periodically as well.

_____ Your child will have an appliance in his/her mouth on the upper teeth (the Expancer) that will move your front teeth forward until they look like they are sticking out more than they are now. There will also be braces on those front teeth. You will have to learn to put this appliance in and out properly. Sometimes the lower teeth may also have an appliance to move the lower front teeth forward. Teeth can get sore when they are moved and lips can get sore from the braces. Wax can work well to make lips feel better.

_____ You will have to adjust the Expancer every day, turning a screw that will make your child's upper jaw wider. You mustn't forget how to do this, and you must make sure to do it every day. Sometimes, rarely, a sore can form on the palate, but this is simple to fix by an adjustment to the appliance. I will teach you how to make this adjustment in case it's needed, and I can also adjust it.

_____ Eating with the Expancer in place will be a little difficult at first, but will get easier. You might feel like your child could eat easier without it, but the appliance must remain in place at all times. You may, however, remove the lower appliance (if present) to eat.

_____ Speaking with the Expancer in place can be a challenge at first. Practice will make it better, and it will improve with time. Usually that isn't necessary with the Expancer.

_____ Your child might salivate more, and feel like he/she has a harder time collecting saliva at first, as with any appliance in the mouth. This is not common.

_____ If the Expancer or the lower appliance ever comes loose, please let us know right away. You'll need to make an appointment for me to tighten the appliance, or else you might lose progress you've made.

_____ The Expancer may be removed only to clean and adjust it, usually only once a day.

_____ When the upper teeth are in the proper position for your child's face, and the lower jaw is still where it is now, it might look awkward. People might notice and say something to you about the front teeth that stick out. This stage could last up to a couple months, until the Biobloc is in. At that point, the appearance will be much better because the lower jaw will be more forward.

_____ The Expancer stage usually takes about 3-5 months. Then, until you have your Biobloc, an upper retainer is made which must never be out of your child's mouth, except for brief cleaning.

The Biobloc

_____ When your child gets the Biobloc, he/she will have to learn to **keep the mouth closed at all times**. The Biobloc will help train your child on the location to hold closed, but you will have to remind him/her to keep the mouth closed. This means when speaking, when at school, and when playing. Sports or choir activities that require him/her to open the mouth are the exception, as is meal time. During these times, while the Biobloc is out, the retainer must be worn. At this stage of the treatment:

There must always be an appliance in the mouth, either the retainer or the Biobloc, except while brushing.

_____ If the Biobloc is not worn properly, holding the mouth closed, or if this isn't done for enough time every day, your child's oral posture will not improve, and the jaw growth and position will not be forward to the potential. This will be your responsibility, not the child's or your orthodontist's.

_____ Our #1 goal is to help your child with his/her mouth posture, which is not presently correct. His/her mouth, teeth and lips, may be open too much, and the tongue is not habitually on the roof of the mouth. Instead, it pushes against the teeth, or gets between them. The goal of Biobloc orthotropics is to help your child learn to correct this. Myofunctional therapy may be necessary to help correct oral posture. If the oral posture is not corrected with the Biobloc and with myofunctional therapy, the jaw growth will likely continue to be more vertical (bad) than horizontal (good).

To the degree that your child is able to correct his/her oral posture long-term, the changes with this treatment will be stable.

_____ Your child should learn to talk with the teeth together when the Biobloc is in. For kids old enough to read, this can be helped by reading out loud 20 minutes a day to develop the skills to pronounce properly. For kids age 4-6, this isn't necessary. Simple reminders to the child to close while speaking are the most help.

_____ Breathing through the nose will be a must. Allergies, tonsils, congestion are all potential obstacles to nasal breathing, and these must be resolved through any necessary means.

_____ If your child is ever unable to wear the Biobloc, or if it becomes damaged, you must schedule an appointment ASAP at our office

_____ This part of the treatment, wearing the Biobloc full time, will last from 9-12 months, if it is done properly and well. If your child *does not* wear it well, it could take years, and your child's oral posture and jaw position might not improve at all.

_____ After the lower jaw has stabilized in the forward position, and after the mouth is habitually closed, your child will keep wearing your Biobloc at night for 1-3 years, as the permanent teeth come in.

_____ Appointments with Dr. Hockel will be from 1-4 weeks apart initially, usually 2-3 weeks. They will last from 15 minutes to an hour or more.

General Considerations

_____ If you schedule an appointment and are unable to give us two business days notice before cancelling or rescheduling, there will typically be a charge of at least \$50.

_____ Damage to or loss of any appliance will result in not only a charge not only for the new appliance, but also for the time to adjust it.

_____ If you require myofunctional therapy, it is provided for my patients by Kathy Winslow. She is located in El Granada (near Half Moon Bay) but she can often schedule patients to be seen here in my office. Your times with her will be scheduled directly with her, and the fees she charges are separate from the Biobloc treatment. You should plan to have all treatment done at her present office locations. Speech therapists and other therapists who might have an approach that is not in line with the Biobloc goals will not be much help in establishing our goal of proper oral posture. It might cost around \$1500 or more.

_____ If treatment is discontinued for whatever reason, the value of the treatment provided to date will be calculated. In some cases there may be a refund. The doctor's time and the appliance costs enter in, with the majority of time and value being spent in the early months of the treatment. The fee is paid for the doctor's care, skill and judgment, and not for the result of the treatment. No promises can be, nor have been, made regarding the results to be achieved, which will depend for the most part on your cooperation and many factors out of the control of the doctor.

Parent

Date