

Space maintainers are used in children and adults to hold space open when teeth are lost prematurely. In children, if teeth are lost early and the space is not kept open, the teeth will drift together, causing the permanent tooth to erupt out of line or, possibly, to be blocked out completely. In adults, if a tooth is lost, it is important to keep the space open so that a suitable replacement can be placed. If the space is not maintained, the teeth will drift together, making it difficult to place a replacement tooth.