

## 2 x 4 AND 2 x 6 (PARTIAL BRACES)

### What do partial braces do?

Partial braces are placed on the upper or lower teeth to provide some early aesthetic or functional correction of problems related to the front teeth such as crowding, excess spacing or cross-bite, while we are waiting for the remainder of the adult teeth to erupt. When a full complement of adult teeth is present, full braces would then be introduced.

### What do they look like?

Partial braces are comprised of brackets on the back molars and on the front four or six teeth. A horseshoe shaped wire (archwire) is seated into the front brackets and anchored in the molar brackets. Alastics or steel ties surround the brackets to keep the wire in place.

To maintain your partial braces, you need to be aware of the following:

- Avoid hard, crunchy and sticky foods that will bend wires, loosen bands or knock off brackets.
- If a bracket or band does become loose, or a wire pops out during treatment, please contact our office as soon as possible.
- To ensure a positive treatment result, proper cleaning is important to prevent cavities and maintain healthy gums.

The day your partial braces are placed, you will be given detailed instructions on how to brush and maintain your appliance.



### As a reminder, please be aware to:

- Brush 3 times a day or after every meal or snack.
- Brush under the braces, along the gum line and on top of the braces in a firm circular motion, concentrating on one tooth at a time.
- Rinse well after brushing.
- Replace your toothbrush monthly.
- Floss at least once a day, threading the floss under the wire with a floss threader or Superfloss.
- After brushing and flossing check to make sure no bands, brackets or wires are loose, bent, or broken.

Broken wires and dislodged brackets may slow down your treatment and extend the length that you wear your partial braces. Please report all breakages to our office as soon as possible to rectify the problem. We do not want you wearing your appliance longer than necessary!