A Bionator is a functional appliance resembling a retainer. It is often prescribed when a patient has a mismatch of dental arches resulting from a small lower jaw. It is used to stimulate growth of the lower jaw in actively growing patients.

The Bionator appliance has three main components. The first is a wire framework that is carefully shaped to the patient’s teeth and used to guide the appliance into its correct position in the mouth. Adjustments in the wire framework can be made to alter the shape and width of the appliance. The second component of the Bionator appliance, the acrylic body, rests against the inside surface of the teeth. The acrylic body acts as a guide to reposition the lower jaw forward and can be trimmed and shaped to direct the eruption of specific teeth. The third component of the Bionator, an adjustment expansion screw, is found in the midline of the appliance. When the doctor turns this screw with a key, the left and right halves of the body can be widened.

**Caring for Your Bionator**

1. Take good care of your appliance. It is expensive to replace if it is lost or broken.
2. Keep your appliance in its case when it is not in your mouth.
3. Never place your appliance in a napkin or on a lunch tray where it may be accidentally thrown out.
4. Keep your appliance out of reach of cats and dogs. They like to chew on it.
5. Do not wear your appliance while brushing your teeth, eating, swimming or while participating in rough contact sports.
6. Clean your appliance with your toothbrush daily.
7. If a sore spot develops, contact the office as soon as you can. Continue to wear the appliance as much as possible until it is adjusted.

**Note:** Your appliance must be worn as prescribed to be effective.