Step 3. The wafer should be firm before removing. If the child bites and opens quickly, remove the wafer as fast as possible and hold it flat in your hand until it is firm.

Wait 1-2 minutes for the water on the Toothprints wafer to dry, and then place it in the ziplock baggie and seal. It can be difficult to wait that 1-2 minutes when you have a line of 25 kids waiting, but it is important that the wafer be dry before it is packaged and sealed.

If the child is uncooperative, place a nonsoftened Toothprints wafer in a ziplock bag, place the “Bring to the Dentist” sticker on the bag, and give it to the parent with instructions to bring it with the child to his or her next dental visit so his or her dentist can take the Toothprints impression at that time.

The Four Most Common Problems

- Lack of cooperation from the child. Don’t go crazy; remember that CHIP is a community event.
- Double biting, smudging, or grinding (see Figure 2). If one of these occurs, you should redo the impression, but place both the first and second tries in the bag.
- Arch not fully positioned on wafer (see Figure 3). If you think you can improve it, then try one more.
- Wafer is too hard or softened too much from the water bath (see Figure 4). You should redo the impression.

Conclusion

Toothprints bite impressions can aid in the recovery, identification, and prosecution for cases of lost, missing, or unidentified children. Therefore, it is crucial that the procedure be performed correctly to create a viable impression that will increase the chances of identification and tracking, and potentially, save lives.