Researchers at the University of South Florida designed a kid-friendly mouth prop that will reduce the anxieties of children during dental visits.

Dentists, orthodontists, prosthodontists, endodontists and the like must provide patient comfort while at the same time accomplishing complex therapeutic treatment procedures within the confines of the oral cavity. A mouth prop (also bite block) is a wedge-shaped implement used in dentistry for dentists working with children and other patients who have difficulty keeping their mouths open wide and steady during a procedure, or during procedures where the patient is sedated. It has a rubber-like texture and is typically made from thermoplastic vulcanizate (TPV) material. They come in several different sizes, from pediatric to adult, and are typically ridged as to use the back teeth to hold them in place. Mouth props are mostly designed primarily for adults and then reduced to smaller sizes for children, almost as an afterthought. Hence, there is a need of a novel mouth prop which is comfortable for children.

Researchers at USF have designed a mouth prop specifically for children as a functional toy that can be used to ease their fears during routine visits to the dentist. Each feature on the product is strategically added to provide safety and create appeal. The eyes and texturized surface prevents slippage, the tongue prevents choking and the teeth serve as an aesthetic tool that gives the prop a playful and energetic feel. No other product in the marketplace comes close to the Mr. Green Gator in terms of creativity and aesthetic appeal, while simultaneously keeping safety as the first priority.

**ADVANTAGES:**

- Kid-friendly with attractive colors and shape
- Anti-slippage and anti-choking features
- Has dimensions that can fit a wide range of mouth sizes
- Auto-clavable and reusable

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