

Hearing Aid Orientation

When your child is fitted with hearing aids, your pediatric audiologist will provide a hearing aid orientation. The orientation will give you information about the parts of your child's hearing aids, how they work, and how to use and care for them. Having a checklist can help make sure you and the audiologist cover everything, and you have the information needed to manage your child's devices.

HEARING AID COMPONENTS

- Description (microphone, earhook, earmold, battery door, tamper-resistant features, program button, etc.)
- Batteries (size, pack color, insertion, safety rules/warnings)
- Batteries are dangerous if swallowed or inserted into the nose or ear

HEARING AID CARE

- Cleaning earmolds (wax loop, cleaning brush, earmold blower, etc.)
- Cleaning hearing aid
- Things to avoid (hairspray, pets, direct heat, lotion, etc.)
- Water
- Storage when not in use, and using dehumidifiers
- Daily device and listening checks (battery tester, stethoset/listening tube)
- Warranty coverage (length of time, damage, loss)
- Follow-up visits

HEARING AID USE

- Basic function (how hearing aids work, turn on/off, change batteries, etc.)
- Insertion/removal of earmolds
- Wearing devices ("eyes open, ears on," when not to wear devices)
- Feedback (causes, situations, solutions)
- Retention options (pilot cap, critter-clip, wig tape, headband, etc.)
- Tamper-resistant features
- Identification of left/right earmolds and hearing aids
- Expectations/limitations (hearing v. understanding, loudness v. clarity, background noise)

If your child swallows a battery or gets a battery stuck inside their ear or nose, immediately go to the nearest emergency room and alert the staff of what has happened. For recommended treatment, call the 24-hour National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 800-498-8666.

COMMUNICATION TIPS FOR THE FAMILY

- Get the attention of the child wearing hearing aids
- Always face the child wearing hearing aids if speaking to them
- Don't speak from another room
- Decrease background noise or move to a quiet area
- Speak slowly without shouting
- Be patient and supportive
- Remember even if a child wearing hearing aids does not seem to understand speech, they may still want to speak with you

BE PATIENT

Our experience and the research tell us that it takes some time to get used to the new sounds the hearing aids will provide, including the sound of the user's own voice. Some of these sounds may not be pleasant at first, but they may be needed to make other sounds, like speech, more clear. It may take several weeks to get used to these changes.

FEEDBACK OR WHISTLING MAY OCCUR IF:

- The earmold is not properly in the ear or no longer fits well (may need new impressions)
- The ear canals or the hearing aids may be plugged with wax
- The hearing aids are covered (with a hat, for example)