

Hearing Aids



General information for parents and carers

Your audiologist has suggested that hearing aids might help your child. They will help your child to access a wider range of sounds, but please remember, hearing aids cannot restore hearing. When hearing aids are issued, your child needs to be encouraged to wear them all day.

You may find it useful to record the details of your child's hearing aid(s) below:

Make/model:

Serial numbers:

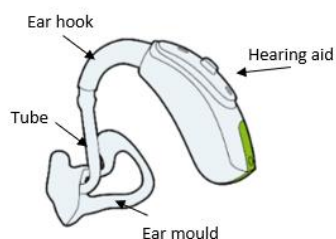
Getting used to hearing aids

Getting the best out of wearing hearing aids takes time and patience. You can help by:

- Watching how your child reacts to different sounds – are they startled by loud noises? – do they notice quiet sounds? Do they have different responses when wearing their hearing aids?
- Talking to your child about the sounds they hear. This will give your child the opportunity to explain what they are experiencing.

It would be useful to share this information when you see your child's audiologist.

Looking after hearing aids



These simple routines can make a significant difference to the quality of sound that your child will experience. Check every day that the hearing aids are working.

- Check that the battery is still working; use a battery tester to do this and fit a new battery if necessary.
- Look at the ear mould, check that it is clean and free from condensation and wax.
- Look at the ear mould tubing and check that it is not cracked, stiff or discoloured and that it is free from condensation and wax.
- Look at the hearing aid and check that it is not visibly damaged.
- Use a stetoclip to listen through the hearing aid for general sound quality.

Ear moulds

Clean ear moulds frequently

- Detach the ear mould from the hearing aids – pull the tubing away from the elbow of the aid – don't pull the tubing out of the mould.
- Wash in warm water – don't use detergent.
- Use a puffer to blow through the tubing to remove drops of water.
- Leave to dry in a warm, not hot, place.
- Reattach the ear mould to the hearing aid.
- If the ear mould does not fit snugly, you may notice a whistling noise called feedback. This means either that the mould is not properly seated in your child's ear or it may be too small and you need to make an appointment for your child to get new ear moulds. Ear moulds need to be replaced regularly.

Ear mould tubing

Regular re-tubing is necessary every few weeks. Replace when it begins to harden. Contact your audiologist or specialist teacher to be shown how to do this.

Specialist Teachers for Hearing Impairment (ST HI)

ST HI provide support and advice to parents, carers, early years settings, schools and colleges. ST HI work with children and young people with a bilateral moderate, severe or profound hearing loss.

The needs of children with a mild or unilateral hearing loss can be met by settings and schools implementing strategies set out in Best Practice Guidelines (Early Years) or Mainstream Core Standards (schools). Therefore, STHI do not normally work with children and young people with these losses.

Specialist Teachers for Hearing Impairment do not diagnose hearing loss. Referrals most frequently come directly from health colleagues. Referrals for children and young people with more severe hearing impairments can be made direct to the Co-ordinator for Hearing Impairment using forms PCI 1S and PCI 2S.

Contact Details

Telephone advice can be provided by the Co-ordinators for Hearing Impairment:

Jo-Ann Clarke on 07825 380152 (East and South Kent)

Sue Holder on 07825 013351 (West and North Kent)

General information and advice is available from the National Deaf Children's Society helpline:

0808 800 8880 or the website www.ndcs.org.uk

To make an appointment for your child's hearing aid to be repaired or re-programmed, or for new ear moulds and batteries, please use the contacts below. Remember to take your child's battery book when going for new batteries.

East Kent Children's Hearing Services

Telephone: 01227 866487

Text: 07917 328056

Email: ekh-tr.eastkentchildrenshearingservice@nhs.net

West Kent Children's Hearing Service

Telephone: 0300 1232670

Email: kentchft.childhearing@nhs.net

If your child has Phonak hearing aids, there is also a Phonak user guide app available free to use. This has information about your child's hearing aid. Please visit www.phonak.com for more information.

