



Hearing Device Tips

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Device Types: Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (BAHAs), Cochlear Implants (CIs), Hearing Aids (HAs). Using a device(s) consistently will help children get the most benefit and access to sound.

- **Establish a Routine:** Create a consistent and positive routine around putting on the devices. Consistency helps your child understand and anticipate the process.
- **Explain in Simple Terms:** Use age-appropriate language to explain the process to your child. Ex: "Let's put on your 'magic ears' so you can hear everything today!" Use playful language or turn it into a game.
- **Be Patient and Positive:** A child might initially resist using the devices. Praise, encouragement, positive reinforcement, and a positive attitude can help reinforce wearing them. Offer a favorite toy or activity after the devices are put in place. Sometimes a child may be more tired from their focus on listening closely and may need small breaks to keep the process a positive experience.
- **Involve Them:** Once able, teach your child how to handle the hearing aids safely. Encourage independence in putting them on and away. Let them choose the color of their ear molds and/or devices.
- **Ensure Proper Fit:** Behavior can be an indication of comfort level, such as removing or touching devices. Check for any signs of irritation or discomfort and adjust if needed. As a child grows their ear molds may become too loose. It is suggested that when a child's shoe size changes they may be ready for a new ear mold. Contact the audiologist for an appointment to make new ear molds.
- **Seek Professional Help:** If anything breaks, if you're struggling or the child seems consistently uncomfortable, seek advice from an audiologist or hearing healthcare professional. They can provide guidance to fit the child's needs.
- **Retention:** Consistency and ensuring a good fit is key, but if it's a struggle with keeping them in, there are many types of products available to help keep the devices in or on and to prevent losing them.
- **Cleaning & Care:** Clean the device daily to remove moisture, dirt, earwax, and oils. Use specialized cleaning tools like a wax pick, brush, brush thread or loop. Regularly check filters and vents to maintain sound quality. If applicable, inspect the battery compartment for buildup or corrosion and clean with a dry cloth. Store hearing devices in a drying container overnight to remove moisture and prevent damage. For thorough cleanings, visit an audiologist. Use this link for fitting your child's earmolds: https://www.in.gov/health/cdhhe/files/TipsTricks-Earmold-CutFit_Final.pdf
- **Sound Checks:** Check for feedback and hearing language sounds: /ah/ /oo/ /ee/ /ss/ /sh/ /mm/ on a regular basis by placing device close to your ear or using a hearing stethoscope.
- Remember, each child is different, and what works for one child might not work for another. The key is to be patient, positive, and make the process as comfortable and positive as possible for your child!