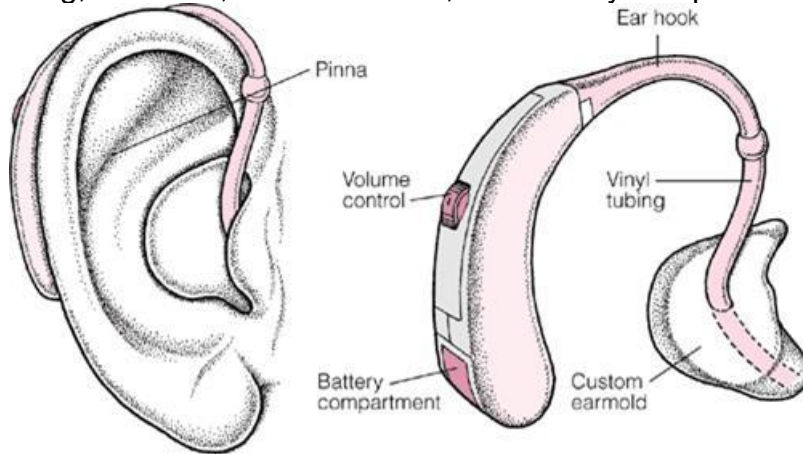


How Hearing Aids Work

All hearing aids, regardless of style, are made with the same basic parts. In the behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aid, shown below, you can see the custom earmold, vinyl tubing, ear hook, volume control, and battery compartment.



What you will not see are the parts that make the hearing aid work. The microphone picks up sounds from the environment and sends it to an amplifier that makes the signal louder. The hearing aid will amplify some pitches of the incoming sound more than others depending upon your child's hearing loss. Your audiologist will program the hearing aid to make the amplified sound appropriate for your child's hearing. After the sound is amplified, it is routed through the receiver. The sound passes through the tone hook, a small plastic piece that hooks over and behind the child's outer ear (pinna). The tone hook is connected to the earmold with vinyl tubing. The tubing can be replaced if it breaks or comes apart from the earmold. The earmold holds the hearing aid in the child's ear and directs sound from the hearing aid into the ear canal. Earmolds are made from soft materials after an impression is taken of your child's ear. They are made individually for each child and fit snugly in the ear canal. As a baby grows, earmolds need to be replaced on a regular basis.

HOW HEARING AIDS WORK (THE BASICS)



Someone Says Hello

"ello oooh oooh ee you en!"

→ A microphone picks up the sound & converts it into an electrical/digital signal.

→ An amplifier increases the strength of the signal. In more sophisticated devices, the signal is manipulated by advanced processing.

→ A receiver/speaker converts it back into sound & sends it to the inner ear.

→ The brain "hears" & understands the sound as speech.

We Hear Them Say Hello

"Hello! It sure is good to see you again!"