

Hearing Aid Listening Check: Instructions



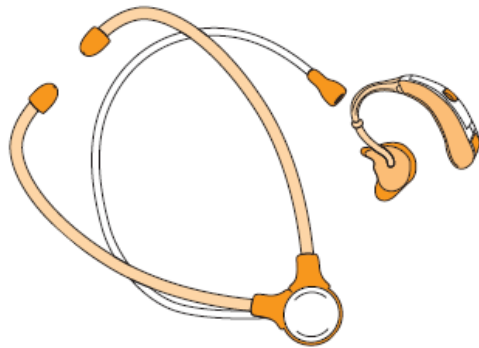
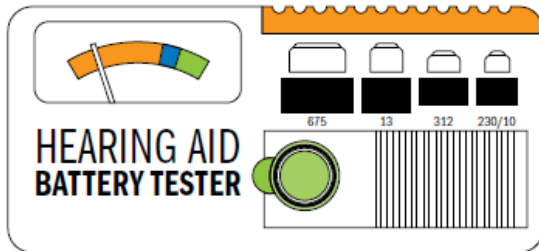
1. Check Hearing Aids Often

Hearing aids are checked daily or more often if the child has been in moist conditions or does not appear to be responding to sound as expected. Children should learn to use the hearing aids during all waking hours. Look at the hearing aids and earmolds and look for any broken or cracked areas; blockage of openings; build-up of moisture in tubing; and corrosion in battery compartment. At night, open the battery door so that the battery doesn't make contact, which will keep it from draining all night and increase battery life.

2. Test Battery

Batteries only last 1 – 2 weeks when used daily. Because a young child may not be able to tell you when the battery has died you need to check the batteries in the tester provided. Place the battery in the correct size hole, press the red bar and the needle should move into the green or "good" area. If not, replace the battery. Battery life begins when the tape is removed from the top of the battery surface.

BATTERIES ARE POISONOUS! KEEP ALL BATTERIES OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.



3. Listen To the Hearing Aid

You should soon become skilled at knowing what your child's hearing aid should sound like. Report changes you perceive to your audiologist who can test the aid further. Make sure the aid is "off" and the volume is turned down, if possible. Place the tip of the earmold in the tan colored cup at the end of the stethoset and put the eartips in or near your ears. Turn on the aid and turn up the volume until comfortable. Listen for any loud background hiss or scratchy sounds as you move the volume wheel. Jiggle the hearing aid and listen for any cutting in and out of sound. Say the sounds "oo," "aw," "ee," "sh," "s," and "m" and listen to how clear the sounds are. Each sound represents a different pitch range in hearing, so clarity of the sounds is critical! If the hearing aid is too loud for you to listen to safely, you can purchase a filter to attach to the stethoset.

When Do I Change the Battery?

- **If the Hearing Aid Does Not Amplify Sound When It Is Turned On...**
Make sure the hearing aid is in the "on" position. If it is in the "on" position, and there is no sound, change the battery.
- **If the Hearing Aid Does Not Sound As Loud As I Expect It To...**
Change the battery. Check for blockage around the earmold tubing.
- **If the Hearing Aid Does Not Amplify the Sound Consistently or the Sound Cuts In and Out...**
Change the battery. Check the battery compartment to see if their corrosion.
- **If the Quality of Sound Does Not Sound Clear, or There Is Static Sound and Distortion...**
Change the battery. Check the battery compartment for corrosion.

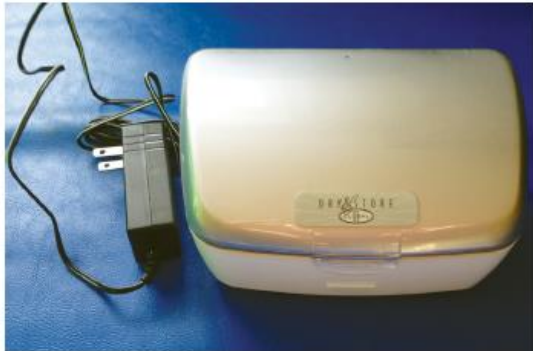
More about hearing aids:

www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/pages/hearingaid.aspx



4. Put the Hearing Aid On the Child

Turn it on and to the correct volume setting. Say the sounds “oo,” “aw,” “ee,” “sh,” “s,” and “m” and watch your child for a response from 6 – 12 inches and again from 6 feet or at your child’s maximum listening distance. Encourage your child to repeat these sounds and participate in hearing aid checks. You can use this quick hearing aid check method for years! If you know the earmold is in the correct position and you hear any feedback (whistling) when the child chews, vocalizes, or moves around, the earmold may be too small for your child’s growing ear. Immediately make an appointment with the audiologist for a new earmold impression to be made. Babies grow fast and so do their ears! A hearing aid that is whistling is not providing your child with the amount of amplification he or she needs to perceive and attend as well as needed to speech and sounds in the environment.



5. Care & Cleaning

Hearing aids should not get wet or be in moist places. If you see drops of water in the earmold tubing, remove the earmold and use the blower to dry out the tube. If the earmold is dirty, clean it with the wax loop tool or remove it and let it soak in warm dishwater. Earwax will eventually discolor the earmold. Do not boil or use harsh cleaners on earmolds. Let them dry overnight before attaching to hearing aids. In moist climates, hearing aids should be kept in the Dri-Aid kit nightly. Remove the battery, open the battery door, seal tightly in the Dri-Aid jar. One drop of moisture in the earmold tube or hearing aid can prevent a child from receiving amplified sound.



6. Ask Questions

Tell your audiologist or Early Intervention services provider if your child does not seem to be hearing as well as usual or the hearing aid(s) do not produce the same quality of sound as usual.

