

Possible Issues with Hearing Aids

Be sure to talk with your child's audiologist if you have questions or any of the problems listed below.

FEEDBACK

Feedback is a high-pitched squealing or a fluttering sound. Talk to your audiologist if there are problems with feedback. Some causes of feedback can be:

- An earmold that is not inserted all the way into your child's ear.
- An earmold that fits poorly or that your child has outgrown.
- An earmold, tubing, or earhook that is damaged.
- A hat or blanket that covers the hearing aid and microphone (feedback will stop when you remove the hat or blanket).
- A hearing aid that is damaged.
- An earmold or an ear canal blocked by wax or discharge from an ear infection.

SORE SPOTS

Sometimes new earmolds have uneven areas that can cause redness or a sore spot in your child's ear. If this happens, your audiologist can often file the earmold smooth. Check your child's ears for redness whenever she gets new earmolds. A sore spot may be the reason your child doesn't want to wear his hearing aids.

EAR INFECTIONS

If your child has an ear infection she may not want to wear her hearing aids because her ears hurt. If you think your child has an ear infection, be sure to talk to your child's doctor or audiologist. They may recommend that your child doesn't wear her hearing aids until the infection clears. If your child's ears are actively draining, remove the hearing aids until the ear infection clears. Be sure to wash and dry the earmold before using again.

OVER AMPLIFICATION

Over amplification means a hearing aid is too loud. Your audiologist should use a technique called real ear measures to find the settings that are appropriate for your child. If your child repeatedly pulls the hearing aids out of his ears, or blinks more than normal with his hearing aids on, they may be too loud. Loud sounds should be loud with hearing aids, but they shouldn't cause discomfort for your child. Talk to your child's audiologist if you think he is being over amplified.