

Daily hearing aid checks

It is really important that children's hearing aids work all day every day so they can hear everything that is going on around them. This is particularly important if the child is young or cannot say if they are working or not. If a hearing aid is being worn but it is not working, the ear mould will act as a 'bung' and give an even greater hearing loss. If a child takes their hearing aids out, always check they are working before putting them back in their ears.

Checking earmoulds:

1. Check the earmoulds are clean and the tubing isn't blocked. Earmoulds can be wiped with a tissue, wet wipe, antibacterial wipe or damp cloth. Wax can be removed with a special tool or paperclip. Please leave the tubing in the earmould when cleaning. See ETHV leaflets, 'Looking after hearing aids – Cleaning earmoulds' and 'Looking after hearing aids - Earmoulds: Re-tubing and Trimming for additional advice. Earmoulds should be cleaned at least once a week.
2. Check if there is condensation (water droplets) in the tubing. This is normal and can be blown out or shaken out.
3. Check if there is discharge from the ear on the earmould. If there is, don't use the hearing aids and see your GP. Leave the hearing aids out until the infection has fully cleared and the ears have had time to dry. Use antibacterial wipes to clean the earmoulds so they don't re-infect the ears.

Checking all hearing aids:

1. Make sure the hearing aid and earmould are attached to each other. Turn the hearing aid on and put it in cupped hands as shown. Count to ten to allow the aid to turn on. You may hear it play a tune.
2. The hearing aid should begin to whistle. Once it starts to whistle count to ten again. If it keeps whistling, the battery is fine and the hearing aid is working. It is ready to be worn.
3. If there is no whistling sound, cup the hands more closely around the hearing aid. If there is still no sound, change the battery. If there is still no sound, please refer to ETHV leaflet, 'Troubleshooting tips for hearing aids'.



Checking hearing aids with indicator lights:

1. Some hearing aids have a discreet flashing light to show if the battery is working or not.
2. Usually - a single flash every 10 seconds means that the battery is working
 - 3 quick flashes every 10 seconds means the battery needs changing
 - no light means either the battery is flat and needs changing immediately or the hearing aid needs turning on
3. **Even if the lights are flashing, the hearing aid may still not be working; particularly if it is dirty or if there is condensation (water droplets) in the tubing.**
4. **Always check the earmould for debris and check in cupped hands as shown above.**

Batteries:

If swallowed, batteries can be fatal. Batteries must always be stored safely well out of reach of children at home and in settings/schools. Dead batteries must also be safely stored out of reach of children and returned to the hospital or ETHV staff.

Locks:



Children with additional needs, children under five and older children with younger siblings will have locks added to their hearing aids to keep them safe. Only use the special tool to open hearing aids fitted with locks so the hearing aid doesn't get damaged. Please ask if additional tools are needed. The tool in this photo is attached to a keyring so it doesn't get lost or put in the bin!

Parents and carers can arrange to have new ear moulds made and faulty hearing aids repaired by contacting the Audiology Department at the Diana Princess of Wales hospital, Grimsby on 03033 304645.

KJ, RB, KA, SS, CP, RK April 2020