

Listening is My Responsibility: Supporting Independent Daily Hearing Device Monitoring

The Hearing Itinerant and student need your support monitoring their hearing assistive technology.

Enclosed in this Guide are four checklists that students can complete so you can select the version that is most appropriate for your student. The younger or picture version can also be used with late readers. Students as young as Kindergarten can use a hearing monitoring checklist to develop the critical lifelong habit of monitoring their assistive listening devices on a daily basis.

The younger students will need an adult to help them with the daily check. If you are committed to walking the young child through this checklist, they will quickly gain these skills at the independent level.



The Hearing Itinerant has most likely written IEP goals surrounding the skills outlined in the daily hearing aid monitoring checklist. The checklists serve multiple purposes.

1. Helps the mainstream teacher, know how to help the student become independent with their listening devices.
2. Guides the child through the steps they need to take on a daily basis.
3. Provides a format for data collection for use in accurately updating the IEP goals.



Keep weekly sheets on a clipboard near the charging station. Cumulative Data sheets can be kept on the clipboard as well.

Daily Listening Checks

It is the school's legal responsibility to monitor a child's assistive listening devices on a regular basis. The younger the child, the more critical it is for an adult to monitor their devices on a daily basis as they are likely to not be an accurate reporter if their equipment stops working in proper order. Not only must we monitor the devices, but YOU could be the first person to be aware if there is a change in a child's hearing. Any time a child responds in an unusual or inconsistent manner, let your Hearing Itinerant, educational audiologist or school nurse know immediately. They will be able to follow up if devices need to be repaired or if the child needs to see their audiologist.

For Early Childhood through First Grade students the daily listening check needs to be done with an adult. As children move into second grade, it becomes developmentally appropriate and fun for the child with hearing loss to do listening checks with a friend.

Again, the daily listening check is critical because of monitoring hearing assistive devices, and also as a required data collection tool.

Many teachers keep a printed copy of the Daily Listening Checks on the clipboard with the hearing monitoring checksheets. Other teachers prefer a shared document online such as google docs.

Inspecting a Hearing Aid

There are simple things that even very young children can do to learn the all-important habit of checking their hearing aid.



The Earmold

Look at the earmold. You are looking for wax as well as tears. The earmold should be free of wax, not torn or cracked and feel soft. If the earmold is torn or extremely hard the child will need to have a new earmold made. Wax- can be wiped off or may need to be washed.



Cleaning the Earmold

If there is wax on the outside of the earmold, it may be able to be cleaned by wiping it off with an “audio wipe”. If there is wax stuck inside the earmold: **DO NOT USE A SHARP OBJECT TO PICK IT OUT!** You could tear the earmold. Often, you are able to just rinse it out. If not, your Itinerant will provide you with tools that are safe.

Inspecting the Tubing

The tubing connects the earmold to the ear hook. The tubing should be clean (no earwax) and not have any tears. It should also be attached firmly to the earmold. If the tubing is torn, or doesn't stay in the earmold the tubing will need to be replaced and or re-glued. Contact your Itinerant.

