

The Developing Child with Unilateral Hearing Loss: EVALUATING HEARING AID USE

Reasonable Expectations for Hearing Aid Wear How much should my child wear his hearing aids at first? During the first few days of use, put the hearing aids on your child <i>3-4 times a day for 15 - 30 minutes each time. Goal is full-time use within 3 weeks of hearing aid fitting.</i> If your baby wears hearing aids only four hours each day, it will take six years to give him as much listening experience as a normally hearing infant accumulates in one year.	Checking the Hearing Aid – Every Day! 1. TEST BATTERY: Batteries only last 1-2 weeks when used daily. Because the child cannot tell you when the battery has died you need to check the batteries in a tester provided. Battery life begins when the tape is removed from the top of the battery surface. BATTERIES ARE <i>POISONOUS</i> ! KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. 2. LISTEN TO HEARING AID: You will 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. Place the tip of the earmold in the tan colored cup at the end of the stethoset and put the eartips in your ears. 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, m and listen to how clear the sounds are. Each sound represents a different pitch range so clarity of the sounds is critical!
Checking the Hearing Aid – Every Day! 3. PUT THE HEARING AID ON THE CHILD: Turn it on and to the correct volume setting. Say the sounds oo, aw, ee, sh, s, 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, 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. 	Checking the Hearing Aid – Every Day! 4. CARE AND 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 looks 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 dry overnight before attaching to hearing aids. In a moist climate the hearing aids should be kept in the DriAid kit nightly. Remove the battery, open the battery door, seal tightly in the DriAid jar. One drop of moisture in the earmold tube or hearing aid can prevent a child from receiving amplified sound. 5. 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. 
Observing for changes with the hearing aid Changes may be subtle and can improve over time as the child learns to listen with 2 ears and gets practice in challenging situations such as listening across distance and in background noise. The Early Listening Function activities when presented at a distance may help identify changes.  http://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/tests	ELF Infant & Young Child Amplification Use Checklist COMPLETING THE ELF CHECKLIST MAY ALSO HELP IDENTIFY SUBTLE CHANGES IN LISTENING AFTER A NEW HEARING AID Parents circle 1-5 scale: Agree, No Change, or Disagree My child appears to: 1. Be more aware of my voice 2. Be more aware of environmental sounds 3. Search more readily for the location of my voice 4. Have an increased amount of babbling or talking 5. Have more interest in communicating During ELF listening activities, the size of my child's listening bubble: 1. Has improved for quiet sounds and voices 2. Has improved for typical sounds and voices 3. Has improved for loud sounds and voices 4. Has improved for listening in background noise Describe specific situations when you noticed improvements in listening ability: 

SUGGESTED FOR HOME VISIT ON HEARING AIDS