



Fact Sheet

Tips for Home or School: Promoting the Wearing of Hearing Aids

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This information is from an original article found in the Nevada Dual Sensory Impairment Project • Spring 2007 Newsletter • Volume 16, Number 3 Page 6

Assistive hearing devices will make a helpful difference in your child's education. Hearing devices may allow your child to have an easier time hearing the teacher or classmates. Hearing aids do not have to be a traumatic experience for you and your child. There are some care and use tips that will extend the life of your child's hearing aid.

1. Keep the hearing aids dry and away from heat as much as possible.
2. Replace dead batteries immediately.
3. Clean hearing aids often and as instructed.
4. Do not use hairspray or other hair products, including hair dryers while aids are in your child's ear.
5. Make sure the hearing aids are off and in a safe place when they are not in use.
6. Keep the hearing aids out of reach of dogs and small children.
7. Do not attempt to repair the hearing aid yourself.

Keeping the hearing aids in working order can be simple enough, but how do you get your child comfortable and willing to wear the

hearing aid? Here are some tips and tricks to make hearing aid use a routine part of your child's day.

1. If your child's hearing aid does not fit snugly in his or her ear some possible solutions are: pediatric tone hooks, toupee tape used to secure the aid behind the ear, eyeglasses band to secure the two aids to each other, and Huggie Aids™.
2. If your child continues to pull the hearing aid out after the initial getting familiar period, first rule out poor fitting and volume. A pediatric audiologist can help determine this and any other reasons. Some parents use headbands or caps to minimize the probability of their child removing the hearing aids.
3. If you are concerned about your child losing his or her hearing aid, there are some options. Some manufacturers have the option of a renewable loss and damage warranty, if the manufacturer does not have this option, check with

your homeowner's insurance to see if loss of a hearing aid is covered. There are a couple of different companies that have hearing aid clips that attach at one end to the hearing aid and the other end to your child's clothing. Fashioning your own hearing aid clip out of dental floss or fishing line and a safety pin is also an option.

4. If your child refuses to wear a hearing aid, try starting off slowly with your child only wearing the aid for short periods of time in the presence of an adult. Every time your child takes the hearing aid out, put it back in. Once the child gets older, there may be a color preference for the ear mold or hearing aid. If the child feels like they have some control of choice, hearing aid use may become more frequent and less of a fight.
5. Be sure to praise your child for wearing the hearing aid and keeping it in.

References

My Baby's Hearing, Hearing and Amplification, (n.d.) Hearing Aid Choices. Retrieved September 9, 2006, from www.babyhearing.org/HearingAmplification/AidChoices/practical.asp



Image retrieved from www.utahcityguide.com/dnews/home/407.asp

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Fact Sheets from the Colorado Services to Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project are to be used by both families and professionals serving individuals with vision and hearing loss. The information applies to children, birth through 21 years of age. The purpose of the Fact Sheet is to give general information on a specific topic. More specific information for an individual student can be provided through personalized technical assistance available from the project. For more information call (303) 866-6681 or (303) 866-6605. Updated: 1/09