

Daily Hearing Aid Listening/Visual Check

Hearing aids and their batteries should be checked at least 1 time EVERY DAY.

Cupping the hand over the hearing aid to listen for it to “squeal” or “whistle” is neither an adequate nor reliable means of checking that your child’s hearing aid is getting sound to his/her brain properly.

Hearing aids can squeal and whistle even when the battery is too low to provide clear sounds to the child’s brain, when there is intermittent static, and when there are internal problems with the hearing aid.

The only way to be sure your child’s hearing aid(s) is working properly is to visually inspect it, listen to it with the listening stethoscope, and check the batteries with a battery tester. Once mastered, this process should only take a few minutes.

PROCEDURES

Testing the Battery:

A variety of battery testers are available. Each should come with instructions detailing where to place the battery, which side of the battery should be ‘up’, and what the read out for a good battery looks like vs. what the read out for a low or dead battery looks like.

Note that even a “brand new” battery never before removed from a package can be a “bad” battery, so ALWAYS check the battery before putting it in the hearing aid.

Visual Check:

Visually inspect each hearing aid for the following:

- Moisture and cracks in the tubing and earmold
- Wax or other debris that may be clogging the tubing and opening into the earmold
- The tubing should be somewhat soft and pliable. Tubing which is extremely hard may need replaced.
- The tubing may take on a slight yellow color; however, tubing which is extremely dark yellow to brown may need replaced.

Listening Check:

Place the listening stethoscope over the opening to the earmold. Be sure to check the instructions for your specific stethoscope. Some stethoscopes will only work if the correct side of the “button” connecting the ends the go into your ears with the end that goes on the earmold is facing outward on your chest.



While the stethoscope is placed over the earmold opening, and you are able to listen to the hearing aid, start saying the Ling 6 Sounds (ooh, aah, ee, s, sh, m) into the hearing aid microphone while doing the following:

- Gently wiggle or shake the hearing aid and listen for rattling noises, static, or any noise/interference with the Ling 6 Sounds.
- Gently turn the tubing and earmold – listen for rattling, static, other interference
- Gently turn the volumes and other toggle switches – listen for rattling, static, other interference

Put the hearing aid back in your child's ear and proceed to do the Ling 6 Sound Test.