

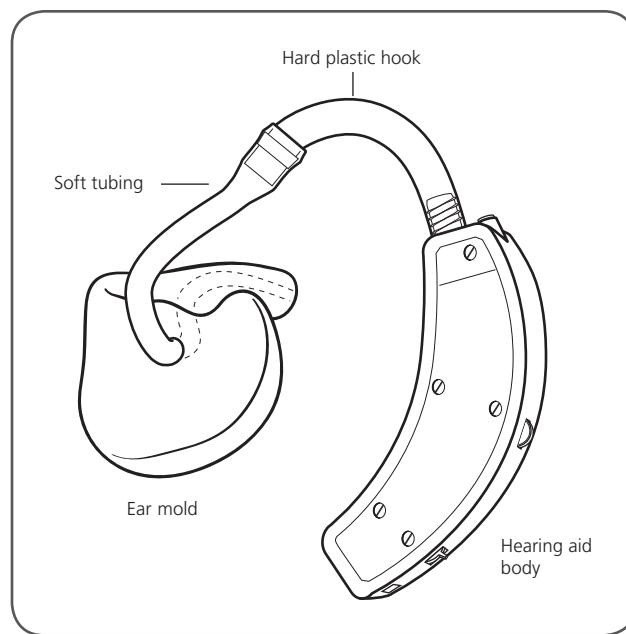
Let's Talk About...

Hearing Aid Care

With regular care, your child's hearing aid will give you years of reliable service.

How do I clean my child's hearing aids?

- Clean the hearing aids several times a week. Use only a soft cloth to wipe the surface.
- Never place the hearing aid body in water.
- When the mold is out of the ear, you can remove ear wax and particles from the opening of the ear mold with a small toothpick. Be careful not to damage the ear mold.
- If the ear mold needs more cleaning, remove the ear mold from the hearing aid where the soft tubing connects with the hard plastic hook (see picture above). Soak the ear mold in a mild warm soap solution. Avoid harsh chemicals like alcohol or dishwasher detergent. Use a small brush or pick gently until the ear mold is clean.
- Make sure the ear mold and tubing are completely dry before you attach the ear mold to the hearing aid. You can use a bulb-blower (available from your audiologist) to blow air through the tubing. Never use a blow dryer, heater, or microwave oven to dry your child's hearing aid or ear mold.
- With use, the ear mold will show signs of "yellowing". Even though this can look bad, it is not harmful to the ear mold or your child's ear.
- If the hearing aid or ear mold still needs cleaning, see your audiologist. Visit your audiologist regularly to have your child's hearing aid cleaned and checked.



Safety tips

- Perform a listening and battery check every day to make sure there is the right amount of amplification. See "The Daily Check" in this handout.
- Do not let your child put the hearing aids in water. Do not let him shower, bathe or swim with hearing aids.
- Place and remove your child's hearing aids over a soft surface (for example, a carpet, towel, or pillow) in case they accidentally drop.
- Keep your child's hearing aids away from too much heat or cold. Never leave a hearing aid near a radiator, in a glove compartment, or on the dashboard of a car.
- Keep your child's hearing aids away from harsh chemicals or cleaners (including rubbing alcohol), dust, and dirt.

- Do not stick pins, paper clips, or anything else into the openings of the hearing aids. Have your audiologist check the aid if the opening is blocked.
- Keep hearing aids away from animals. Dogs and cats are attracted to the odor of hearing aids and may chew and destroy them.
- Try not to change the hearing aid batteries or controls in front of children unless you are teaching them. If your child's hearing aid does not have a tamper-resistant battery door, please tell your audiologist.
- Do not lend your child's hearing aid to anyone. This could damage their hearing.

Should I repair the hearing aid?

Do not try to repair your child's hearing aid. Opening the hearing aid may cancel your warranty. Talk to your audiologist if you are worried about how your child's hearing aid is working. Make sure you understand the loss, damage, and repair coverage provided with your child's hearing aids. Your child's audiologist has this information.

Hygiene and hearing aids

- Have your child take out his hearing aid when applying hair products such as hair spray, hair gel, or oils. You can put the hearing aid back in your child's ear when the hair applications dry.
- Remove the hearing aid when combing, brushing, or drying hair.
- Protect the hearing aids from too much moisture. If moisture or perspiration are a problem, talk with your audiologist. There are several items that may help.

Batteries

Hearing aids and hearing aid batteries are very harmful if swallowed. They are also small enough that child may want to put them in his mouth. Try not to carry loose batteries with you. You may be able to change the type of hearing aid so your child has a type with a tamper-resistant battery door and volume control. Each company handles this differently. Please

check with your audiologist if your child's hearing aids do not have these features. When not in use, keep hearing aids and batteries out of the reach of animals, children, and people with mental illness.

If your child swallows a hearing aid battery, call your doctor or poison control center immediately. Poison Control Center in Salt Lake City: 801.581.2151 or 1.800.456.7707

You can buy hearing-aid batteries at most local grocery stores, electronic stores, or big-box discount stores. There are two types: zinc-air and silver. Do not try to recharge a hearing aid battery. Zinc-air batteries are usually the best buy because they have the longest life. You will recognize them by a colored tab on the back of the battery (the colors vary depending on the size of the battery).

A tab covers a small opening in the battery. Zinc-air batteries usually provide more reliable and consistent energy. These batteries have the longest shelf life. Do not refrigerate.

Silver batteries are not as common, are more expensive and have less battery life. This battery "dies" slowly, and the user will find it necessary to adjust the volume control of the hearing-aid steadily as the battery power weakens. You can store these batteries in a refrigerator.

Testing and storing batteries

Test batteries at night, after your child has used them. If you test batteries in the morning (after they have not been used) you may get a false reading. You should test batteries often if they are used for small children and others who are unable to talk about their needs. You can get a battery tester from your audiologist. Make sure to read the tester's instructions.

Keep batteries in a cool, dry place, avoiding extreme hot and cold temperatures. Do not store batteries touching each other. Do not store them in anything metal, such as foil or tin containers.

The Daily Check

It is important to do daily listening checks of the hearing aid to make sure your child is hearing well. Babies and young children cannot tell you when a

battery is dead, if the hearing aid only works sometimes, or if it has distorted sound. Up to half of children's hearing aids do not work well. Most of the time you can fix this easily fixed with a daily check.

Please follow these 9 steps:

- 1 Look at the hearing aid for any obvious problems. Are there any signs of broken or loose parts?
- 2 Check the microphone opening on the hearing aid. Is it clean and free of dirt and other particles? Are there signs of damage?
- 3 Check the hearing aid case. Are there signs of damage, cracks, splitting, or separation? Does the battery door work well? If there is a tamper resistant battery door, does it provide enough protection for young children?
- 4 Check the battery with a battery tester. Check the battery's power after a long period of use. Batteries should register "GOOD" or 1.4 volts on the meter. If it registers anything else, replace the battery.
- 5 Place the battery in the hearing aid and turn the aid to the "ON" position (usually "M" on the hearing aid).
- 6 Check the volume control. Does it rotate smoothly? Is there any static or a lack of sound when you change the volume control? Is there an increase in volume as you turn the control up? Do each of the Ling Six Sounds (to the right) sound natural?

7 Turn the volume up slowly, while saying aloud the following sounds (called the Ling Six Sounds):

- "mmm" (as in master)
- "ahhhh" (as in ball)
- "oooo" (as in boot)
- "eeee" (as in beet)
- "shhhh" (as in shoot)
- "ssss" (as in Sally)

Gently move or tap the sides of the case, while you listen. Are there any signs of the hearing aid "cutting out" or otherwise changing?

- 8 Check the ear mold. Is the opening free of blockage? Is the tubing soft and moveable? Are there any cracks or rough areas on the tubing or the ear mold?
- 9 Check the switches on the hearing aid. Does the switch move freely? Is there any static when you use the switch?