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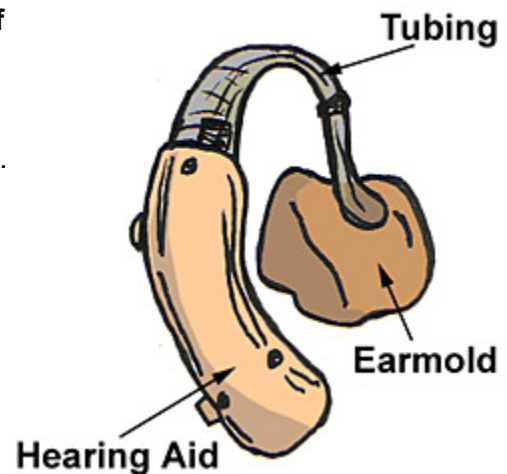
## Hearing Aid Care

**It is important that you take good care of your child's hearing aids. Read on to find out about taking care of hearing aids.**

### General hearing aid tips

Hearing aids can last a long time if you take care of them. These things can help your child's hearing aids last longer:

- Wipe the hearing aid with a dry tissue. Do this every time you take the hearing aid off.
- Don't wash the hearing aid. This is the part that has the battery. Wash only the earmold and hearing aid tubes.
- Put the hearing aid into a dry-aid kit at night. This will keep the hearing aid dry. It will make the hearing aid last longer.
- Have the hearing aids professionally cleaned every 3 to 6 months.



### Your child's earmolds

The earmold fits in your child's ear. It connects to the hearing aid tube. Learn more about earmolds and how to care for them:

#### General earmold information

Here are some things you should know about earmolds:

- An earmold that fits well is very important. If the earmold does not fit well, the hearing aid may give a lot of feedback.
- Your child can use different earmolds on the same hearing aid.
- When your child gets an outer ear infection, he shouldn't wear an earmold. Your pediatric audiologist and doctor can help you decide what to do about his ear infection.
- Earmolds come in many colors. Children like having different earmold colors. Changing the colors of the earmolds may:
  - Help your child be more comfortable with their hearing aids. If he likes the earmolds, he will wear the hearing aids more often.
  - Make your child think that hearing aids are something to be proud of. He can show them off and not be ashamed of them.

### Read these quotes about colored earmolds from parents:

“ I will NEVER understand why people hide their hearing aids and earmolds. People have cool glasses, so why not cool earmolds? ”  
— **Rebecca's Mom**

“ My son loves his new red and white swirl earmolds. He's a big Boston Red Sox fan! ”  
— **Sammy's Mom**

### When to get new earmolds

As your child grows, he will need to get new earmolds. Think about these things:

- The size of your child's ears gets bigger as he gets older. Because of this, he should change earmolds once every year or two.
- A baby may need earmolds every few months.
- Sometimes it can take a couple of tries to get an earmold that is a perfect fit.
- Your child may have skin allergies to the earmolds. Earmolds can be made from a material that will not give him an allergic reaction.
- Keep old earmolds for a while. Do this in case the new earmolds don't fit.

### Care of earmolds

Earmolds must be kept clean. If they are not clean, your child can get pimples, blackheads, dry and flaky skin, or itchy ears. Read how to care for earmolds:

- Wipe the earmold with a tissue every time you take the hearing aid off.
- Wash the earmold every night. Wash it with warm soapy water and then rinse it.
- Do not use alcohol to clean the earmold. Alcohol will make the earmold hard and it won't last as long.

### **Your child's hearing aid tubing**

The hearing aid tubing connects the hearing aid to the earmold. Learn more about hearing aid tubing and how to take care of it:

### General hearing aid tubing information

Here are some things you should know about hearing aid tubing:

- Hearing aid tubing that is dirty or old doesn't work well. It can't carry the sound from the hearing aid to the earmold.
- Tubing can collect water or ear wax. The water can damage the hearing aids.
- Over time the tubing hardens and the opening becomes narrower.

### Care of hearing aid tubing

Read these helpful hints for hearing aid tubing care:

- Wash the hearing aid tubing every night.
- Wash it with warm soapy water and then rinse it.
- Blow down the tubing to get the water out.
- After you clean the tubing, let it dry overnight.

- Tubing needs to be soft and flexible. Replace the tubing when it hardens. This usually happens every three to six months. Your child's hearing will be better with new, soft and bigger tubing.

### **Why your child's hearing aid makes noises**

If your child's hearing aid whistles or squeaks it is called feedback. This can happen because:

- The earmold is not in your child's ear correctly. [Read these tips for putting earmolds in \(http://www.phonak.com.hk/page.php?cat=products&language=e&sub=etfei\)](http://www.phonak.com.hk/page.php?cat=products&language=e&sub=etfei).
- Your child has a lot of wax in his ears. You should talk to your child's doctor about this.
- The earmold does not fit well. It may be too small. Your child may need to be fitted for new earmolds.
- The volume is up to high.
- The earmold or hearing aid tubing is loose or torn.

### **When the hearing aid doesn't work**

Sometimes your child's hearing aid won't work. It may be because there is a problem with the hearing aid or the hearing aid battery is dead. Read more about these things:

#### Problem with the hearing aid

Your child's hearing aid may stop working if:

- The hearing aid volume is turned down or off.
- The hearing aid tube is blocked. Remove the hearing aid tubing from the hearing aid. Blow down the tubing to remove water or condensation.
- The earmold is blocked with wax. Clean the earmold.
- The batteries are dead.

#### The hearing aid battery is dead

When your child's hearing aid stops working, it may be because of the battery. Digital hearing aids sometimes need to have the batteries changed twice a week. Your child's hearing aid battery may be low if:

- You or your child, hear a beeping sound coming from the hearing aid. New digital hearing aids beep when their batteries are low.
- The feedback from the hearing aid becomes lower. This will only happen with analog hearing aids.
- Your child starts speaking louder and louder.
- Your child's hearing aid suddenly stops working. This often happens with digital hearing aids.
- The hearing aid battery tester says that the battery is dead.

## Learn more on the Internet

- Read more about [caring for hearing aids](http://deafness.about.com/cs/hearingaids/a/haidcare.htm) (<http://deafness.about.com/cs/hearingaids/a/haidcare.htm>).
- Read about [hearing aid and earmold care](http://www.audiologyawareness.com/hhelp/hacare.htm) (<http://www.audiologyawareness.com/hhelp/hacare.htm>).
- Read more about [hearing aid batteries](http://www.bsu.edu/csh/spa/audclinic/haid1.html) (<http://www.bsu.edu/csh/spa/audclinic/haid1.html>).
- Read about [why hearing aids whistle](http://www.youth.hear-it.org/page.dsp?page=2260) (<http://www.youth.hear-it.org/page.dsp?page=2260>).

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*You can find this page online at:*

<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/help/tech/hearingaids/aidcare.jsp>