

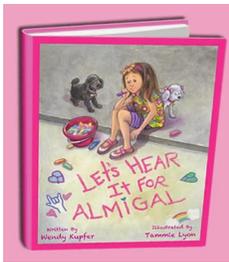
KEEPING HEARING AIDS ON YOUR CHILD

Keeping hearing aids on children can be difficult, and if your child is resistant to keeping hearing equipment on or you are otherwise finding it challenging to keep devices on your child, you are not alone! Many other parents have experienced these same challenges! But consistent device use is important for your child's learning and language, so keep at it! Below are some tips to try.



Make listening fun!

Experiment with different household items, exploring the kinds of sound they make. Read a book or sing a song.



Remember that you as the parent are in charge of hearing aid use.

This means that you take the hearing aids off of your child and that you put them on your child. If this means only putting the aids on for a few minutes and then removing them, this is where you start. If your child removes the aids, you need to quickly reinsert them and then remove them yourself. Gradually the time worn can be increased.

Try a kitchen timer

to help define how long the hearing aids must stay on. This may start at 30 seconds or 30 minutes! Gradually increase the time.



Decorate the hearing aids.

This can help your child take pride in his/her aids and make them more fun to wear.

Options include: Hayleigh's Cherished Charms, Tubetastic Pimp (Etsy shop), and Tube Riders.



Help your child understand that the hearing aids are helpful.

"Now you can hear the music!"



Use new or special toys.

Have some toys that are manipulative and make some noises, and have them only come out when the hearing aids first go on and available for play right after. Put the new toys away until the next day. Or have a new toy that your child will really like that can only be used when the hearing aids are on.



Try rewards.

A snack, stickers, or little dollar store toys can be incentives for keeping the hearing aids on.

Find children who are like them, either in person or through books, DVDs, or TV shows.*

Have "hearing aid time" activities that keep his/her mind off of the hearing aids, experience better hearing during the activity, and are positive. Take a walk while holding your child's hands, or watch a video together. Have your child wear the aids during dinner time or when going to the park.

Praise your child for keeping the hearing aids on.

**Children benefit from seeing other children who are like them. Toys and dolls with hearing devices might help as well. Options include: Build-a-Bear, American Girl, Adaptive equipment from Lakeshore Learning, My Twinn dolls, Flighthouse Just Like Me dolls, and Woooly (Etsy shop) toys with microtia.*

The goal is having hearing aid use be a part of your regular daily routine. Your child might still pull the hearing aids out a million more times, but don't give up! Hearing aid usage usually becomes routine within a couple of months.

TIPS FOR SECURING HEARING AIDS

Tie, clip, or pin the aids to the back of your child's shirt to make sure the aids don't go too far if they come off of the ears. You can use string, dental floss, or an eyeglasses cord and a pin or specially manufactured clips. Commercial options include: Ear Gear, Safe-N-Sound, and Oto/Critter Clips.



Secure aids behind the ears using an adhesive. Options include: wig/toupee tape, It Stays body adhesive (roll-on applicator), medical tape (e.g., 3M surgical tape), and Phonak Stick'n Stay.



Try headbands or hats to cover devices to protect aids and keep little hands from removing them. Options include: Hanna Andersson Pilot Caps, Monkey Gear (monkeygear.ca/), Kiddie Caps (on Hal-Hen website), Little Random Boutique (Etsy shop), Baby Bling Bows, and Forward.net (bands and caps for BAHA users).

