



Taking care of your child's hearing devices

This leaflet has been developed to help inform parents on how to take the very best care of your child's hearing devices. **A hearing device is a precious piece of equipment because they provide your child access to the world around them.** They are sophisticated mini-computers and, as such, are expensive and must be treated with care. A radio aid costs over £1000! Below are some tips on keeping them safe and working well.

Tip 1: Store them safely

Hearing devices are stored most safely in your child's ears! But when not in use, e.g. when your child goes to bed at night, they need to be put in a safe place. Develop a routine with your child, so that everyone in the family knows where the hearing devices are kept.

- For young children, take their hearing devices out and accompany your child to put them in a nominated 'special' place. They will soon learn to put the devices here, and you won't have to go looking for them every time they disappear.
- For older children who are developing independence, they should be encouraged to remove their own hearing devices and put them straight into the storage case.
- Radio aids are very expensive. When at school, the teachers will help store them safely. But if taken home, they are your responsibility!

Tip 2: Keeping the devices on

Most children will go through a period of exploring and pulling out their devices before they get used to them. Tips for helping them to move through this period can be found on the NDCS website ('Keeping hearing aids and implants on babies and toddlers').

- 'Hearing aid clips' are a handy device that clips to the back of a child's shirt while being connected to a band around the hearing device. If the devices are tugged out by younger children or fall out when older ones are running round, they won't get lost.
- Hearing aid retaining loops or ear suspender headbands, are also available. These are thin plastic tubes that go around the hearing device and attach to either glasses or a band to help hold them in place.
- Safety sting clips are available for BAHA devices.
- Mesh hearing aid caps or pilot caps can be useful for young children, especially for safety during the period when they may pull devices out and put them in their mouth.

Tip 3: Hearing devices do not like water

While a splash of rain is ok, hearing devices do not like baths, swimming or a cycle in the washing machine. If you think the hearing device has got wet, take out the battery, leaving the drawer open, and place in a drying pot. Regular use of a drying pot is good practice anyway as hearing devices are sensitive to moisture building up from everyday use. This could cause them to work well for some, but not all, of the time (known as 'intermittent'). We can provide drying pots and tablets.

Tip 4: Keep away from other children and pets

Place the devices out of reach of children and pets. They might be seen as a toy to chew and play with. Plus when hearing devices are switched on and lying around, they emit a high-pitched sound that can irritate dogs and result in an annoyed chewing!

Tip 5: Care for them like your phone

Hearing devices do not like impact or excessive heat, so avoid dropping them on hard surfaces and protect from direct sunlight (e.g. left in a parked car) or placing on or near a heater or radiator. Protect hearing devices like you would your phone; they are far more precious.

If you have any further questions, please contact:

The Audiology Department on tel: 0118 322 7238

Email: audiology.royalberkshire@nhs.net

Website: www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/featured-services/children-young-people/children-s-hearing-services/

Thank you for your help in keeping your child's hearing devices safe and working well!

Important notice

Your child's hearing devices are on long-term loan from the NHS and are not your property. If you damage them you may invalidate the warranty. You may be charged for loss or repair if the NHS considers the damage to be through your own actions.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

If you would like this leaflet in other languages or formats (e.g. large print, Braille or audio), please contact the Audiology Department.

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