

## Taking care of your child's hearing aids

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

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### Tip 1: Store them safely

Hearing aids 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 aids are kept.

- For young children, take their hearing aids out and accompany your child to put them in a nominated 'special' place. They will soon learn to put the aids 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 aids and put them straight into the storage case.
- Radioaids 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 aids on

Most children will go through a period of exploring and pulling out their aids before they get used to them. Tips for helping them to move through this period can be found on the NDCS website (*Getting your child to wear their hearing aid*). Tips include: distracting them with fun activities or using them at mealtimes while their little hands are busy. Other practical tools for keeping them on include:

- Use of sticky pads (toupe tape) between the hearing aid and the skin behind the ear to help hold the hearing aid in place.
- 'Kiddyclips' are a handy device that clips to the back of a child's shirt while being connected to a band around the hearing aid unit. If the aids are tugged out by younger children or fall out when older ones are running round, they won't get lost.
- Hearing aid retainers, known as 'huggies', are also available. These are thin plastic tubes that go around the ear and then attach to the hearing aid to help hold them in place.
- These can all be issued from the Audiology Department, so please ask the team.

### Tip 3: Hearing aids do not like water

While a splash of rain is ok, hearing aids do not like baths, swimming or a cycle in the washing machine. If you think the hearing aid 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 aids 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 aid out of reach of children and pets. They might be seen as a toy to chew and play with. Plus when hearing aids 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 aids do not like impact or excessive heat, so avoid dropping the hearing aid 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 aids like you would your phone, they are far more precious.

### How to contact Paediatric Audiology

To ask a question or talk to an Audiologist you should contact:

Audiology 1, Royal Berkshire Hospital, London Road, Reading RG1 5AN

Telephone: 0118 322 7238      Fax: 0118 322 7075

Email: [audiology@royalberkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:audiology@royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

Website: [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/audiology](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/audiology)

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

### **Important Notice**

**Your child's hearing aids 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.**

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

Department of Audiology, February 2019

Review due: February 2021