



Setting Language in Motion: Family Supports and Early Intervention for Babies Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Hearing Aid Batteries

This document provides tips on how to change hearing aid batteries.

Changing the Battery

The battery compartment is where the battery is housed. Many hearing aids for children are ordered with tamper-resistant doors in order to prevent a child from easily opening them. Refer to the instruction booklet that came with your child's hearing aid for specific instructions on opening the battery door.

Store the batteries carefully. Change the battery when the child is not watching. **(See the next page for additional safety cautions about hearing aid batteries and recommended first aid if a battery is accidentally swallowed.)**

1. Locate the battery compartment, which is often on the bottom of the hearing aid.
2. Swing open the battery compartment door. With young children's hearing aids, the battery door is often tamper resistant, making it difficult for a child to accidentally open the door. Follow the steps for unlocking the battery door as shown to you by your child's audiologist or hearing aid dispenser.
3. Discard the old battery. Recycle the battery or make sure it is buried deep in the trash so that it can't be seen by the child.
4. Insert the new battery. If the child's hearing aid uses Zinc-air batteries, a paper sticker will have to be removed from the top of the battery before it is placed in the hearing aid. (The sticker

MODULE THREE

Hearing Aids: The Basics

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can be placed on a calendar as a way to track how many days each battery lasts.) Most new batteries are now mercury free. To ensure the battery is fully charged, remove the sticker and wait for about one minute before inserting the battery into the compartment. This will allow air to flow in the battery and provide a full charge.

As shown below, the battery should be inserted into the battery door and it should sit flush inside the battery compartment:



5. Close the battery compartment door securely. If the battery has been inserted properly, the door should close easily. **DO NOT** force it! If the door doesn't close easily, check that the battery is facing in the right direction.
6. If the hearing aid has a tamper-resistant battery compartment door, make sure it has been fully locked.
7. The battery compartment door should be left **OPEN** at night to maximize battery life.

Testing the Battery

When using a battery tester, **always check the battery at night** after the child takes the hearing aids off. Most batteries will recharge slightly when not in use for several hours. If the battery is checked in the morning after it hasn't been used overnight, the battery tester may show a 'good' power reading. However, that will last a very short time. By the time the child arrives at school the battery may have died. If the battery tester shows a 'low' battery reading at night, replace the battery with a new one the following morning just before putting the hearing aids on the child. **Even when the battery is low, the hearing aid is not providing clear sound so the child will not hear as well as he or she should.** A strong battery is critical to the proper operation of the hearing aids.

Battery Sizes

Hearing aid batteries come in four sizes. Each size is associated with a different color that translates across ALL battery manufacturers:

Color Coding System:



Note the battery size here: _____

Hearing Aid Batteries: Dangerous if Swallowed!

Hearing aid batteries can be very harmful if swallowed or inhaled for these reasons:

- A battery can become stuck in the esophagus or elsewhere in the digestive system and may require surgical removal.
- A battery can leak poisonous substances.
- A battery can be aspirated (inhaled) into the airway and cause choking or damage to the respiratory system.

Follow these rules for battery safety:

- Keep spare batteries out of the child's reach.
- Discarded or dead batteries should be recycled or put deep into the trash so that the child cannot see them. Some stores, hearing aid retailers, and hearing clinics will accept batteries for recycling. Some local governments/ counties also have special recycling programs.

What to Do if You Think a Child Has Swallowed or Breathed in a Battery

First, call the **National Button Battery Ingestion Hotline** OR **your local poison control hotline** (keep this number posted on your phone). A call to the child's pediatrician is also recommended. Do not induce vomiting as the battery may become lodged in the esophagus on the way up.

An x-ray will likely be advised to determine the location of the battery. If it is in the esophagus, it may be recommended that the battery be removed by a doctor. If it is in the stomach or intestines, a high-fiber, bulky diet will probably be recommended until the battery is excreted. Watch all bowel movements to find the excreted battery. If it is not excreted in seven days, a second x-ray may be recommended.

Many swallowed batteries have been excreted by children with no problems. However, if you suspect a battery may have been swallowed, follow the steps above and take no risks.

Child-Resistant Battery Compartment

Many hearing aid models can be fit with a child-resistant battery compartment by the manufacturer. This modification can be requested if a hearing aid is not already equipped. If it is not available for your child's hearing aids, tape the battery compartments shut.

For Additional Resources

Please refer to the Module 3 video for more tips and information as well as for additional resources. Also, visit our websites at www.bostonchildrenshospital.org/dhhp and <http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu>.

National Button Battery Ingestion Hotline:

(202) 625-3333 (Voice)
(202) 784-4660 (TTY)

National Poison Control Center:

(800) 222-1222