



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

How to Do a Hearing Aid Listening Check

Since infants and young children cannot self-report that the hearing aid is working properly, it is critical to check their hearing aids EVERY DAY. Daily listening checks will identify problems that may affect a child's ability to hear at his or her best.

Steps to Do a Listening Check

The listening check is best accomplished by using an ear level stethoset. (See the handout on Hearing Aid Accessories.) This stethoset permits listening to the hearing aid through the child's earmold.

1. Attach the hearing aid to the stethoset by putting the opening of the ear canal tip of the earmold into the end of the stethoset's tube. Then place the earpieces of the stethoset in your ears.



2. Turn on the hearing aid. Ensure that you are hearing amplified sound, as if you were listening to a speaker. This sound should be clear with no static or crackling noise. The sound should stay on and not cut in and out. If there is a volume control, rotate this dial to be sure the sound becomes louder or softer depending on the direction rotated.
3. Say the following sounds at an average voice level while holding the hearing aid approximately 10 inches away from you (do not shout or whisper):

MODULE THREE Hearing Aids: The Basics

Charlotte Mullen, AuD,
Boston Children's Hospital
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program,
with Lynne Graham-O'Brien, AuD,
and Sydney Bednarz, BS

"oo" as in "who"
"ee" as in "we"
"ah" as in "father"
"s" as in "so"
"sh" as in "she"
"m" as in "mmm"

Each of these speech sounds should sound clear and undistorted. These sounds represent the sound energy or speech spectrum for spoken English.

4. Examine the earmold and make sure that the opening in the canal portion is clear of earwax. The tubing should be clear and free of any moisture beads or clouding. (If not, use a forced air blower or infant nasal bulb to blow dry air through the tubing to remove it.) Check to be sure the tubing is still soft. (If it is hard, you will need to take the mold to the managing hearing aid audiologist dispenser to have it changed.)

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>.