

TROUBLE SHOOTING HEARING AID

Consideration when examining hearing aids

A simple daily routine should be carried out both at home and in school. Children should be encouraged to check for themselves and maintain their own aid(s). For younger children parents or carers will have to carry out the basic routine in order to take care of the aid(s). Developing a child's self-advocacy to conduct these checks independently as they get older is paramount towards the child's independent life skills.

There are several quick and easy checks that can be made to ensure that the aid is working properly. It is very important that the hearing aid is working properly at all times. Different types of hearing aids (post aurial or behind the ear, body-worn and in the ear) can all be checked the same way.

Trouble shooting hearing aids:

- Switch the hearing aid(s) on.
- Check the hearing aid for cracks and that the casing isn't fitting together properly.
- Are the switches moving freely and does the volume control wheel move up and down?
- Is the battery compartment closed, and does it have a battery?
- Check the elbow (tone hook) for cracks, wax and chewing.
- Rotate the volume control, there should be a whistling noise. Please bear in mind that some hearing aids won't have a working volume control, particularly for younger children
- If there isn't a whistling noise check: -
 - a) *the battery is correctly inserted*
 - b) *put in a new battery*
- Is the sound continuous when the aid is gently squeezed?
- Is the microphone blocked up – food and sand are common problems?
- Is the cord/lead broken (body-worn aid) or chewed?

Whilst your child's hearing aid may look slightly different, the picture is an indication to where the different parts of a hearing



Whistling. Why it may happen and what it may mean.

The high pitched sound from a hearing aid is called feedback, and is often referred to as 'whistling' due to how it sounds. It can be annoying and upsetting for the hearing aid user and those around them when it happens, but there are several reasons that this might happen, and different things you can do to help alleviate the problem.

1. If the hearing aid mould is not put in the child's ear properly, this whistling can happen. Gently remove and replace the hearing aid to see if this stops the whistling sound.
2. As children grow, their ear mould may need re-fitting regularly. Whistling can be the sign that this needs to happen. If you think this may be the case, contact the Audiology Department for an appointment.
3. The tubing from the mould to the hearing aid can become hardened, and this can cause whistling. If the tubing feels hard (especially the part that passes through the ear mould), the tubing may need replacing. See the section on re-tubing for detailed information on how to change the tubing correctly.
4. Wax in the ear canal can cause the whistling sound to happen also. If you think that your child may have wax in their ears, please DO NOT try to remove it yourself. Instead, make an appointment with your GP, who will be able to support you with this issue.