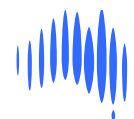


Discovering sound together



It's their new world. Each day brings new sights, new sounds, new learning. Adjusting to this new world takes time – but this is a journey you take together.

Check your baby's hearing aids daily

First things first, get your baby used to wearing their hearing aids. Start by listening to the hearing aids as a part of your baby's normal routine. This will let you know if they are working properly. Make this check part of your daily routine until your child is old enough to tell you if something is wrong with their aids. We'll provide you with a kit for checking your baby's hearing aids.

The whistling effect

When your baby is under six months, it's common for them to experience a whistling sound in their hearing aid (called acoustic feedback). It happens because your baby's ears are small and soft and they spend a lot of time with their ear pressed against a surface, such as when they are sleeping or feeding.

There's a few ways to help reduce feedback in these first six months:

- Your audiologist will recommend a lubricant to use
- Well-fitting hearing aid ear moulds. Babies grow at a rapid rate, so you'll need new moulds every few weeks

Acoustic feedback generally settles down when babies get more control of their head and neck.

Helpful tips if your baby can only use their hearing aid for certain times of the day:

- Pick times when you are free to spend time talking and singing with your baby
- Pick a quiet place with little or no background noise
- Ensure there is nothing against your baby's ears so the hearing aids don't whistle
- Make sure your baby can see your face and mouth as you speak

As your baby grows and spends more time awake, aim to get them to wear their hearing aids for all waking hours. And here's a tip: play with your baby for five minutes after you first put the hearing aid on. That way, you'll (hopefully) distract them from pulling out or touching their hearing aids. One they get more familiar with their hearing aids, you'll find there'll be less of a need for this.

Learning about speech and other sounds as your baby gets older:

- Devote time to interacting and talking with your baby.
- Talk about your actions as you go about your daily routine.
- Exaggerate your voice as you speak with your baby.
- Repeat any sounds your baby makes and take turns having a 'conversation'.
- When your baby responds to a sound, give them a reward such as a clap or a cuddle.
- Let your baby explore your mouth and tongue as you speak.

Times your baby should not wear a hearing aid

Hearing aids should not get wet, so you'll need to take them out when your baby has a bath. They're also usually removed for sleeping, mainly for comfort reasons.

WARNING – Important battery safety information, keeping everyone safe



- Keep any old or new batteries in a safe and secure location, away from children and pets.
- Batteries are hazardous and can cause severe or fatal injuries in 2 hours or less if swallowed or placed inside any part of the body.
- If you suspect someone has swallowed a battery, contact the **Poisons Information Centre immediately on 13 11 26** for 24/7 fast, expert advice.

Things to remember:

- Examine devices to ensure the battery compartment is secured. If the compartment is not secure, do not use and bring in to your Hearing Centre for checking.
- Children like to copy, so do not change batteries near them.
- Safely dispose of used batteries immediately by placing sticky tape around the battery. Then place battery into a bin, out of reach of children and pets, or recycle in a dedicated battery bin.
- Do not attempt to recharge batteries unless you have been given rechargeable-only batteries.
- Special battery safety measures are required for hearing aids fitted to children under 5 years of age, and battery safety features can be requested for aided children with young siblings or adults at risk of incorrect use.
- Please ensure that you follow the audiologist's safety recommendations at all times.

If you experience an incident related to battery safety please report this to Hearing Australia as soon as possible.