# EA Sensory Service Education Authority Logo

# Hearing aid maintenance

It is important for children to wear their hearing aids for as long as possible every day. Hearing aids should be working well so that a child is able to hear clear speech. This gives them the best access to communication and learning.

A hearing aid listening check should be completed every morning or whenever there is a concern.

## Equipment

You will need:

* A stetoclip or listening tube. This attaches to the hearing aid or earmould so that you can listen to the amplified sound. Make sure that you use an acoustic attenuator or filtered stetoclip so that the amplified sound is not too loud for you.
* A wire loop and brush to remove wax from the earmould.
* An air blower or puffer to remove moisture from the earmould tubing.
* A battery tester is also useful if available.

### Stetoclip with acoustic attenuator or filter

**Image of an acoustic attenuator**Image of a stetoclip or listening tube with an acoustic attenuator.

# Daily hearing aid checks

### Step 1

Look at the hearing aids and earmoulds and note any

* Broken or cracked areas
* Blockage of openings
* Build-up of moisture in tubing
* Corrosion in battery compartment

### Step 2

### Earmould and tubing

a)Is the earmould blocked with wax or secretion?

Is earmould dirty?

If so: **wash the earmould in hot, soapy water, rinse and dry. (Remember: remove the earmould from the hearing aid).**

**Clear droplets of water in the tubing with earmould puffer.**

**Keep the hearing aid dry.**

b) Is the tubing split, squashed, twisted or hard?

If so: **re-tube earmould**

c) Is there condensation in the tubing? (You may notice little drops of water in the tubing when the child becomes hot after playing or on a warm day)

If so: **clear droplets of water with earmould puffer.**

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### Step 3

Attach the earmould to the listening tube/stetoclip and note any possible problems as you listen to each hearing aid. Use the [Lings Six Sound Check](https://advancedbionics.com/content/dam/advancedbionics/Documents/libraries/Tools-for-Schools/Educational_Support/Assessment-Tools/Ling6-Sound-Check-Instructions.pdf) to check all the frequency sounds. If there is a problem, try the troubleshooting steps below, and listen to the hearing aid again.

| The hearing aid does not amplify sound when it is turned on | * Make sure the battery door is fully closed (this switches the hearing aid on) * Change the battery |
| --- | --- |
| The hearing aid does not sound as loud as you expect it to | * Change the battery * Listen to the hearing aid without the earmould (there may be blockage in the earmould tubing) |
| The hearing aid does not amplify the sound consistently  (The sound cuts in and out) | * Change the battery * Check the battery compartment for corrosion |
| The quality of the sound is not good There is a static sound or distortion | * Change the battery * Check the battery compartment for corrosion |
| Listen to the hearing aid as you say the Ling sounds (ah, ee, oo, mm, sh, ss).  Are the Ling sounds clear? | If not:   * Change the battery * Check the battery compartment for corrosion |
| There are water droplets in the tubing (condensation) | * Use the puffer to puff it out |

Good hygiene is important ‒ we advise cleaning the ear tip end of the stetoclip with a bactericidal cleaning tissue after use.

The National Deaf Children’s Society has useful videos on daily checks for hearing aids. You can see their tips for caring for hearing aids [here](https://www.ndcs.org.uk/blog/caring-for-your-child-s-hearing-aids-at-home/).

The National Deaf Children’s Society has also produced Hearing Aids: Information for families which is available [here](https://www.ndcs.org.uk/documents-and-resources/hearing-aids-information-for-families/).

For further advice please contact the Sensory Service via phone: 028 25 661 258 or email: sensoryservice@eani.org.uk