**EA Sensory Service**  

# Keeping Hearing Aids on Young Children

The full-time use of prescribed hearing aids is critical for helping your child to develop very early language skills and behaviours, so it is important to begin working towards full-time usage as quickly as possible. However, hearing aids can be difficult to keep on little ears.

Your Teacher of the Deaf can advise about establishing hearing aid usage. It is important to persevere, and build up the usage day by day, until your child is wearing his/her hearing aids during all waking hours.

## SOME TIPS FOR KEEPING HEARING AIDS ON:

* Try holding the hearing aid in your hand for a few minutes to warm it. A cold hearing aid can be a shock against your child’s ear. Warming it will also make the flexible parts a little more pliable.
* In the early days try to establish a routine and stick to it. Ideally, the hearing aids should go in as part of your child’s ‘getting dressed’ routine. This helps it become a habit to put on hearing aids.
* Try to have your child use his/her hearing aids for a slightly longer period each day. Do not remove them if s/he is happily still wearing them. However, you will find that you have good days and bad days; if it proves too stressful for you or your child, try again later.
* Remember, you want to ensure that the hearing aids are giving your child access to sound while they are in use. Regular checks are required during the day, in case the battery has died, or there may be condensation in the tubing that needs to be puffed out (using the puffer in your Audiology Maintenance kit).
* It is a good idea to have something ready to distract your child when trying to put the hearing aids on. It can be fiddly to begin with. Some parents report that mealtime is a good time to put in hearing aids, while their child is distracted by eating. With babies, it is a good idea to give them something to hold.
* With older toddlers it may be fun to decorate your child’s hearing aids to make them more attractive. Some Audiology departments are happy to add a favourite character or icon in the mould, or as a sticker/clip on for the hearing aid tubing. You can choose coloured, sparkly moulds, or use stickers on the hearing aid. These ideas may make hearing aids more attractive to your child. Remember, when using stickers and clips, do not cover the microphone on your child’s hearing aids.

Click on this [link](https://www.oticon.com/-/media/oticon-us/main/download-center/family-support-materials/professional-all/35537-keeping-hearing-aids-on-young-children.pdf) for more useful advice and tips.

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