
GIVE YOUR CHILD ACCESS TO SOUND

Fact: By 4 years of age, normal hearing children have heard over 46 million words

Fact: Language delays and reduced IQ scores are linked to children who hear fewer words

Fact: Children who are learning to speak need to hear a word 500 times before they incorporate it into their vocabulary

Fact: Children need 20000 hours of listening before they are ready for reading



"If your baby wears hearing aids only four hours each day, it will take six years to give him as much listening experience as a normally hearing infant accumulates in one year."

How to keep hearing aids on:

- Hats with tie closure to deter removal
- Hearing aid clips to prevent loss
- Toupee tape to keep aids from flopping

Links for ordering:

Hats:

<http://hearinghenry.com/>

<http://www.silkawear.com>

<http://www.thehearinghalo.com>

<http://www.hannaandersson.com> (pilot cap)

Clips and toupee tape: available through your audiologist, ordered from Westone

How to make hearing aids more fun:

- Color options for both hearing aids and molds make hearing aids fun!
- Decorate the hearing aids with removable stickers or jewels
- Toys with hearing aids: find a toy animal/doll that wears hearing aids for your child (Build-a-Bear, American Girl)



From a child's perspective:

What are these things?

Consider what a child must think when they have hearing aids. All of a sudden there are these new things in their ears that they can grab.

Yummy!

Infants explore with their mouths. You may find your child happily sucking on the hearing aids like a pacifier quite contented with themselves.

Parent's attention!

It's great, every time I pull these things off, I get mom's attention



For you:

Troubleshoot.

Is the hearing aid working? Is the ear mold comfortable? Is there whistling? Does your child have an ear infection?

Remain calm.

Children may remove their hearing aids a hundred times a day; your patience may be tested but do not chide or show anger. Stay calm.



Take a break.

Sometimes wait 5 minutes before putting the hearing aids back on to give yourself and the child a breather.

Distract.

A toy to keep their hands busy, especially in the car, distracts them from wanting to pull hearing aids off.

