

Sensory Support **Behind the ear hearing aids**



Hearing aids

Hearing aids enable many children with hearing impairments to access sound. They come in a variety of sizes and colours and to be effective they must be checked regularly and maintained in good working order.

A post aural/behind the ear hearing aid

Microphone: usually at the top of the hearing aid. Most hearing aids have two microphones.

Programme selector: may be activated for use by older children or for radio aids.

Volume control: may be activated for older children.

Ear hook: this carries sounds from the aid to the earmould.

Tubing: this carries sound through the earmould and into the ear. Should be soft and clean.

Earmould: needs to be a snug fit and be free of wax.





Looking after hearing aids

It is important that the hearing aids are checked daily:

- Check that the hearing aid, hook, earmould and tubing are not damaged, dirty or blocked
- Check for cracks or broken switches
- Ensure hearing aids are in the correct ears
 - **Red for right**
 - **Blue for left**

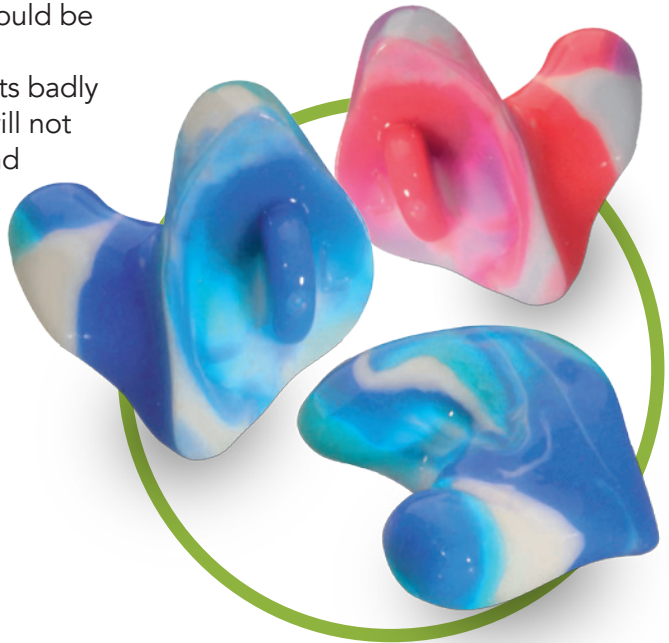


- Check the earmould is clean and not blocked with wax
- Check the battery. Cup the hearing aid in your hand – if it does not whistle, change the battery
- Hearing aid batteries may stop at any time so keep a supply of batteries
- Sometimes even new earmoulds may not fit properly and new impressions may need to be taken
- There should be no wax or condensation in the earmould or tubing
- The earmould and tubing must be cleaned regularly

Earmoulds

- The earmould should be a good fit
- If the earmould fits badly the hearing aid will not be as effective and you may hear a high pitched whistling sound; this is acoustic feedback

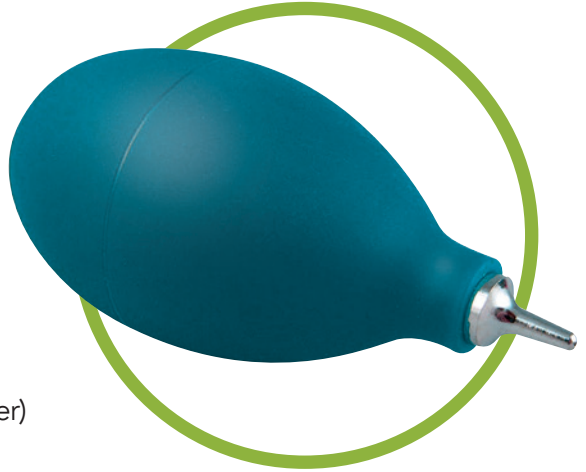
Earmoulds
come in all
sorts of colours
and finishes



Sensory Support

To clean the mould:

1. Take the mould and tubing off the hearing aid
2. Wash the mould in warm soapy water
3. Rinse it well
4. Dry it well
5. Clear any droplets of moisture from the tubing using a special blower (puffer)



Encourage pupils to take responsibility for the care and maintenance of their hearing aids.

If the hearing aid is not working inform the parent/carer.

Families are responsible for taking aids back to the hospital for repair and for collection of batteries.

Access to Education

www.birmingham.gov.uk/access-to-education

My Care in Birmingham

www.mycareinbirmingham.org.uk

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