

Sensory Support

Bone conduction hearing aids

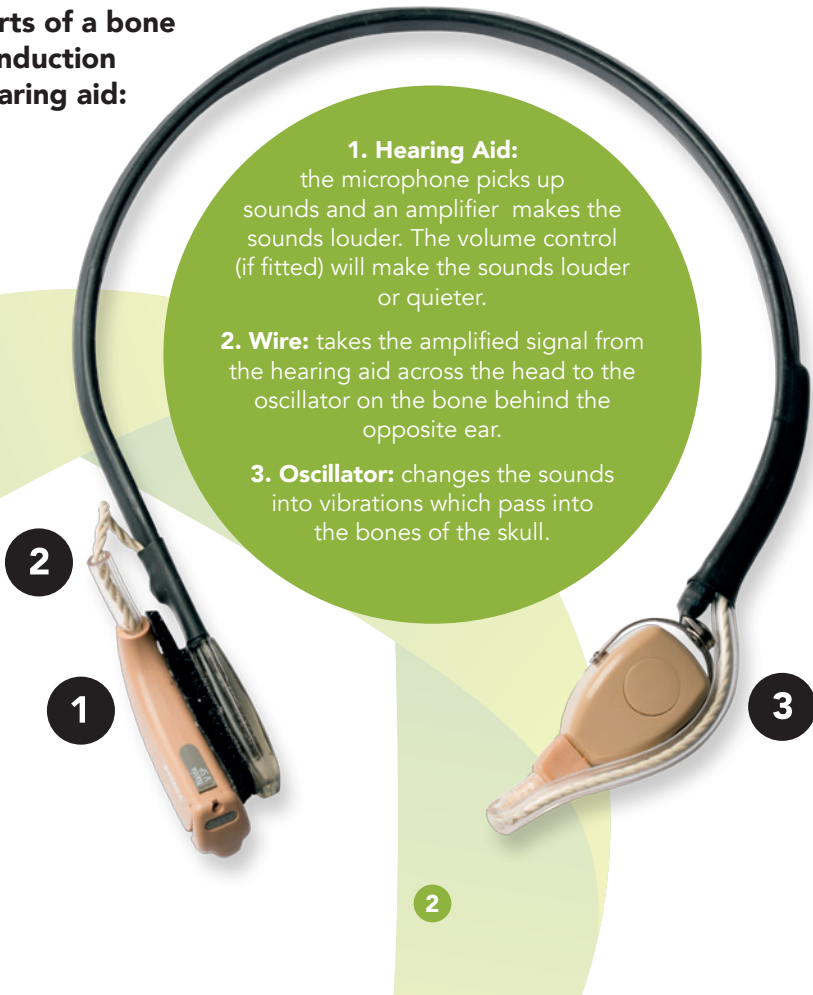


Bone conduction hearing aids

What is a bone conduction hearing aid?

Conventional hearing aids amplify sounds and send them through an ear-mould into the ear canal. A bone conduction hearing aid changes sound into vibrations which are passed through the skull bone, to the inner ear. Bone conduction hearing aids can be fitted onto a hard Alice band or sewn into a soft sports/sweat band.

Parts of a bone conduction hearing aid:



1. Hearing Aid:

the microphone picks up sounds and an amplifier makes the sounds louder. The volume control (if fitted) will make the sounds louder or quieter.

2. **Wire:** takes the amplified signal from the hearing aid across the head to the oscillator on the bone behind the opposite ear.

3. **Oscillator:** changes the sounds into vibrations which pass into the bones of the skull.

When would a bone conduction hearing aid be used?

Bone conduction hearing aids are sometimes given to children who have:

- Glue ear
- Persistent ear infections
- Eczema in the ear canal
- Conditions where part of the ear is missing
- Conditions where the ear canal is permanently blocked
- Conditions where the middle ear is damaged

Looking after a bone conduction hearing aid

- Keep a supply of spare batteries
- Check the battery by holding the oscillator in your hand. When the battery is working you will feel the vibration when you speak into the microphone

If the hearing aid does not work, try the following:

- Check the wires
- Check the battery

Children themselves are encouraged to take responsibility for the care and maintenance of hearing aids and families are responsible for taking hearing aids for repair and for collecting batteries.



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