

Tricks and Strategies to Keep Hearing Aids on Active Infants & Toddlers

Parent's Strategies for What Works!

- ▶ Different strategies are needed as children's dexterity and independence changes. All children go through a phase where they take off their hearing aids.
- ▶ Persistence in putting them back in, using accessories to keep them on the child's head and keeping the child distracted and 'happily listening' helps you get through!
- ▶ Ear Gear was the most highly rated accessory for effectiveness, safety, durability
- ▶ Ear Gear + wig tape
- ▶ Sing whenever he pulls off his hearing aid – he won't want to miss hearing his favorite song!

2012 Pediatric Hearing Aid Retention Project Survey results of 286 parents by Karen L. Anderson, PhD & Jane Madell, PhD

Parent's Strategies for What Works!

- ▶ Clips to hearing aids attached to barrettes in hair; if child tries to pull off – she pulls hair too
- ▶ Wig tape to support a large hearing aid or FM on a tiny ear
- ▶ Cap over the hearing aids (Hearing Henry; Hannah Andersson) with strings criss-crossed under chin and bow tied behind neck
- ▶ When in a carseat, wrap a blanket around her that has a Velcro strip so she can't bend her elbows (a week or less may be all that is needed before she learns to not touch her hearing aids)
- ▶ Beware of clips with sharp edges and accessories that still allow the child to pull off the hearing aid and put it in his/her mouth (batteries are poisonous!)

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Strategies:

- ▶ Stick to the schedule – no weekends or days 'off!'
 - When he gets up and you change his diaper put his hearing aids on – every time. He will soon associate two activities. As he 'graduates' into underwear it will be natural for him to recognize that he needs to wear his hearing aids all day, everyday just like he needs to wear his underwear.
 - Keep the hearing aids in the same place ('hearing aid house')
 - Teach him that he needs to ask an adult to take off the hearing aids. When he asks to have them off consider if it is too noisy, he may have an ear infection, a battery may be dead, the hearing aids are malfunctioning, etc.
- ▶ Tantrums happen. When he calms down distract him with something he likes (i.e., reading a book) and try again. Do not let the hearing aids become a way that he 'misbehaves to get your attention'
- ▶ It is natural for him to be curious about his hearing aids. Use hearing aid accessories and strategies to keep the hearing aids on and safe from him removing them, taking them apart, swallowing the batteries.



HIPS Accessories!

Hearing Instrument Protection & Safety

▶ Clips



Citter Clips
Westone



Junior Kidz Clips
Phonak



OtoClips
Westone

- ▶ Consider sharp edges
- ▶ Can the baby still put the device in his mouth?

HIPS Accessories!

▶ Clips + firmer device holders



Ear Gear



SafeNSound



- ▶ Consider sharp edges
- ▶ Can the baby still put the device in his mouth?

HIPS Accessories!

▶ Other device holders



Huggie Aids



Huggie Aids Headband



Headband
Hearing Henry



Caps
Hearing Henry

- ▶ Consider acoustic transparency, comfort, difficulty putting on, washing, durability

Achieving Effective Hearing Aid Use in Early Childhood; 2013 © Karen L Anderson, PhD

What we will try: