

## Patient information factsheet

# Hearing aid services for children with glue ear

We have given you this factsheet to explain what to expect at your child's hearing aid appointments and provide more information about their hearing aids. We hope it will help to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to a member of our team.

### Hearing aids

Your child's hearing aid(s) will have two parts:

- the hearing aid itself
- the earmould

These two parts are connected by a thin plastic tube, which sends the sound from the hearing aid to the earmould. The earmould then sends the sound to the ear.

There are several different types of hearing aids available. We will choose the most suitable hearing aid(s) for your child's needs.

All hearing aids are battery-powered. We give tamper-proof battery locks to all children under the age of five, and to any children with additional needs that may make them more likely to swallow a battery. If you would like a tamper-proof battery lock for your child, we will be happy to provide one. You may want to consider this if your child is in regular contact with young children or children with additional needs.

### Earmould impressions

At your child's first appointment, we will take earmould impressions (a cast of the shape of your child's ear). We will then send your child's earmould impressions to a laboratory to be made into their earmould(s). Standard earmoulds are made of clear plastic, but they can also be made in a range of colours or can have a picture insert.

As your child grows, we will need to take new earmould impressions on a regular basis to account for the new shape of their ear. We will take new impressions approximately every three to six months, usually during your child's review appointments.

### Fitting the hearing aid(s)

At the fitting appointment, we will:

- set up the hearing aid(s) for your child's individual hearing levels and needs
- explain how hearing aids work and how to care for them

Occasionally we may carry out some extra tests to check your child's hearing when they are wearing their hearing aid(s).

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We will give your child the following items to take home:

- their hearing aid(s)
- an information booklet on how to use, manage and look after their hearing aid(s)
- boxes to store their hearing aid(s)
- spare batteries

## Educational support

We may offer you a referral to a local specialist teacher advisory service. This service provides information, advice and support for parents, carers and school staff. If you agree to a referral, the service will contact you directly to arrange an initial meeting. This service is mostly for children with a long-standing hearing loss. If your child is using hearing aids while they are waiting for grommets, this service may be able to offer a reduced level of support.

## Follow-up appointments

Hearing levels can vary with glue ear, so we will review your child's hearing ability every three to six months and adjust their hearing aid(s) as appropriate. If you notice a change in your child's hearing, for example if they show signs of finding sounds too loud, it may be because their hearing levels have changed. Please contact us to request an earlier review if this is the case.

## Getting used to hearing aids

Hearing aids do not restore normal hearing, but with consistent use and practice, they will help your child to hear sounds more clearly. As a parent or carer, it is important that you show a positive attitude to the hearing aid(s). It may take some time for your child to adjust to wearing their hearing aid(s). In this case, we recommend that you build up use gradually. We will give you tips and ideas for encouraging your child to use their hearing aid(s) at their fitting appointment. Eventually most children find themselves wearing the hearing aid(s) all day every day. Please be aware that hearing aids have a feature called 'data logging' which records information about how the hearing aids are used, such as how long they are being worn each day.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

### Audiology and hearing therapy department

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## Useful links

[www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/childhood-deafness/hearing-aids](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/childhood-deafness/hearing-aids)

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