

HEARING AIDS

For Babies

What to Expect



Hearing aids are the first technological recommendation for babies with hearing loss. These small electronic devices help amplify sounds so that babies can access speech and environmental sounds.

All hearing aids contain three main components: a microphone that picks up sound, a digital amplifier that makes sounds louder, and a speaker that sends the sound into the ear. Hearing aids are carefully programmed by an audiologist so that specific frequencies are amplified according to the child's hearing levels.

For babies and young children, behind-the-ear hearing aids are typically recommended. These devices connect to a soft ear mold that fits comfortably in the baby's ear and directs sound into the ear canal. As babies grow, earmolds must be replaced regularly to ensure a proper fit.

Consistency is important when using hearing aids. Specialists like to say, "eyes open, ears on"! The more opportunities babies have to hear sounds throughout the day, the quicker they develop the auditory cortex. Auditory brain development is necessary for recognizing environmental sounds, voices, words, and understanding spoken language.

It is also helpful for parents to remember that hearing aids do not "fix" hearing. Hearing aids provide improved access to sounds, which supports spoken language development and communication.

Audiologists and specialized early intervention professionals help families learn how to care for hearing aids, perform listening checks, and support their baby's responses to sound.