

Tips: Keeping Hearing Aids On Your Child

- Sometimes when babies teethe their ear/jaw can be sensitive and cause discomfort for them. There is a connection with nerve pathways.
- It might be a good idea to take regular looks inside her ear/pinna area for little pimples or sores that pop up from time to time and can make wearing hearing aids uncomfortable.
- Any ear infections can cause pain and extra pressure -if middle ear fluid is present. It is a good idea to do regular tympanograms to rule out middle ear fluid just to be sure.
- If she is pulling both aids out -she is either doing it as a part of a developmental/curiosity state or she is physically uncomfortable. New earmolds are like new shoes and are tight usually (or sometimes ill-fitting or too loose and move around and wiggle annoyingly). There is a delicate balance between a good fit/tight fit/loose fit especially at this age.
- If an earmold is in fact poorly fitting, there is usually a 3 month remake period at no charge to the patient or audiologist. Parents would just have to return for new impressions. Baby patients/toddler patients often need replacement earmolds every 2 months or so.
- Checking the hearing aids daily (with the listening scope) is important to make sure they sound clear and are in working order will help to ensure that she is receiving the best auditory signal and not fuzz or static.
- There are also lightweight head bands or caps that can be used over the aids. There used to be a problem with feedback(whistling) in the "old days" - but the new aids can usually take it...even when the material is right over the mic. These materials just need to be lightweight (not like a thick winter ear band). Here are a few product examples to look at online- and of course a creative sewing person could make one herself.

http://www.etsy.com/shop/thehearinghalo?section_id=6795891

<http://hearinghenry.blogspot.com/2011/05/new-business.html>

- Ear Gear – can also help to keep the hearing aids safe if they fall off (see attached)
<http://www.gearforears.com/>
- Alligator Clips also work for this <http://store.microsonic-inc.com/670671-gatorclipsforbtehearingaids.aspx>

