

Bone Conduction Hearing Aids

A bone conduction hearing aid sends sound to the inner part of the ear by bone vibration.

Children use bone conduction hearing aids when their outer and/or middle ear are not able to send the sound to the inner ear.

This can happen for different reasons. For example, some children are born without an outer ear or the opening is very small, or the small bones in the middle ear don't move well and sounds are not passed on to the inner ear. For children with a significant hearing loss in one ear, often called single sided deafness, a bone conduction hearing aid picks up sounds on the side with the hearing loss and sends the sound to the other ear.

A bone conduction hearing aid is usually kept in place on the child's head with a soft band. It needs to fit snug against your child's head for the sound to pass through the skin to vibrate the bone. Older children can have that the device surgically implanted in the bone behind the ear.

Bone conduction hearing aid settings are programmed with a computer. The audiologist checks the settings to make sure your child can hear soft sounds and that loud sounds are not too loud.

To do this, the audiologist enters your child's hearing levels and a prescription is used to determine the specific settings for your child.

Next, the audiologist checks how your child responds to sounds in the sound booth while wearing the hearing aid, similar to a hearing test.

The audiologist can also use verification equipment to make sure the hearing aid settings are accurate, and if needed, adjustments can be made.

For your child to hear well, it is important for the softband to sit snugly on your child's head. The hearing aid should stay in place and not move around when the child moves. At the same time, it is important to make sure that the band isn't too tight. If it is, you will see marks or redness on the skin.

A hearing aid care kit has the tools you need to make sure your child's device is working. If you did not receive a care kit, ask your audiologist to help you get one.



The battery tester allows you to check the strength of the battery, and it is helpful to keep spare batteries on hand, as they can lose power quickly.

To change the battery, open the battery door, remove the old battery, and insert the new battery taking care to line up the positive and negative sides.

The dry aid kit helps to remove moisture from inside the hearing aid. It can be used daily, it is best to do this at night while your child is sleeping. You will want to follow the instructions on the dry aid kit.

The listening post allows you to check how the hearing aid sounds. Hearing aids can malfunction, and it is important to know when there is a problem.

The brush can help you keep the device clean.

The retention clip can be used to clip the device to the child's clothing to help prevent losing the device.

It is important to do a listening check every day, until your child is old enough to tell you when there is a problem. First, you attach the post to the device like you would to the softband.

Second, hold the post between your pointer and middle finger. Use your thumbs to plug your ears and hold the post against your forehead.

Third, talk out loud and notice how it sounds. It should not sound loud but will sound like a clear microphone as you speak. If you hear static, feedback or distortion, contact your audiologist. The device may need to be sent for repair.

If you hear feedback or squealing, there are a few things you can check.

First be sure the device is snugly attached to the softband.

Second, make sure the device is placed correctly on your child's head.

If the device is not upright or is placed too close to the ear, it can create feedback.

If your child uses glasses, you may need to adjust the placement. If the feedback continues, contact your audiologist.

It is important to check the condition of the device daily; this can be done when you do the listening check.



Check the post for cracks. If there are cracks sound can leak out and cause feedback. If this happens, the device will need to be sent in for repair.

To temporarily fix the problem you can use soft putty on the crack to stop the feedback, until you are able to get the device repaired.

Contact your audiologist with your questions or concerns, so your child can continue to hear the sounds around them.