

# Children Earmolds: What to Expect

Children who wear hearing aids need earmolds that are made to fit their ears. The earmolds are custom made from an impression of their ear that the audiologist takes in the office. Getting an impression of the ear takes about five minutes per ear. Taking the impression doesn't hurt, but for part of the process your child needs to hold their head steady.

First, the audiologist needs to look into your child's ear with a special light called an otoscope to make sure the ear canal is clear. Sometimes there can be too much wax and if that is the case, the wax needs to be cleaned out before an impression can be made.

Next, the audiologist will place a small piece of cotton or foam into the ear canal, this is called an otoblock. The otoblock provides a stopping point to keep the material from going too deep in the ear canal. The audiologist will look into your child's ear canal and make sure that the otoblock is in the right place.

Next, the audiologist will mix the impression material. It has two parts that need to be mixed together. After the material is mixed, it will begin to harden, and the audiologist will move quickly to put the material in the syringe that is used to put the impression material in your child's ear.

Next, the audiologist will put the syringe in your child's ear canal and proceed to squeeze the impression material into the ear canal in a smooth painless process. This is the part of the process where your child will need to be as still as possible. The impression material will feel somewhat cool in your child's ear; it takes about 3-5 minutes to become firm.

Once the impression material has hardened, the audiologist will carefully remove the impressions from your child's ear. The impression will slide out attached to the otoblock placed in there earlier, revealing a mold of your child's ear and ear canal.

After removing the impression from your child's ear, the audiologist will use the otoscope to look in your child's ear to make sure there is no irritation.

The audiologist will complete paperwork to order your child's earmolds, and you and your child can have the opportunity to pick out the color of the earmolds.



Following the appointment, the audiologist will ship the impressions to the manufacturer where they will be turned into earmolds. Ask your audiologist about how long it will take to get the earmolds back.

Babies grow quickly and you may want to request faster shipping to reduce the time it takes to get the earmolds.

You can also ask your audiologist if they can teach you how to cut the earmold tubing. If you and the audiologist work together, the earmolds could be shipped to your house.