

Cochlear Implant Activation

What to expect at a cochlear implant activation

- Cochlear implant activation is an exciting time for your child and the whole family.
- People often feel nervous about the appointment, and it can help to know what to expect.
- After surgery, the activation is scheduled once your child has fully healed from surgery.
- The appointment typically begins by going through the activation kit that is either provided to you or directly to your clinic. Your audiologist will tell you how you will receive your activation kit.
- The audiologist will talk with you about the components of the kit, explain how they work, what you need to do to take care of the components, and some basic troubleshooting steps you can take if needed.
- This is all new to you and it's common to have questions. You may want to write your questions down and bring the list to the appointment.

How will my child's cochlear implant be activated?

- The audiologist will connect the processors to the computer, and then place the processors on your child's head.
- A magnet in the processor connects the processor to your child's head. The audiologist will select the magnet strength that will keep the processor in place without causing discomfort.
- After the processors are placed on the head, the audiologist may complete some tests and adjust the settings in the processor.

How will my child react to their cochlear implant being turned on?

- The primary purpose of the initial activation is to find a comfortable volume for your child. It takes time to build up the volume to the target, your audiologist will guide you through this process.
- Reactions vary from no reaction to confusion, and children may become upset by the new experience.
- This is typical when experiencing a new sensation. As your child begins hearing sounds, they are building neural pathways for hearing.
- Some children will benefit from sitting in your lap. This can promote a sense of safety and security for your child.



What should I expect after the cochlear implant activation?

- Your child will be able to detect speech and environmental sounds, but it is likely that your child will not understand what you are saying right away. This will improve with time as your child receives speech and language therapy and wears the processor.
- You may notice that your child is feeling more tired than usual. This is known as listening fatigue, and it occurs when the brain is making new connections that are associated with hearing.

How soon will we need to see the audiologist again?

- Your audiologist will tell you when to follow-up, it is common to have several appointments.
- Take notes about experiences you and your child have after activation and let the audiologist know of these experiences so that they can continue to help make this process comfortable for your child.
- You, your audiologist, and all the providers working with your child are a team.
- Your audiologist and the rest of the team are here for you and want your child to be successful with their new hearing devices.
- Don't hesitate to ask questions or ask for further explanations of what was said throughout this process, even if it has already been explained before.