

My child has been diagnosed with a hearing loss and the audiologist recommended hearing aids.

What is a hearing aid?

A hearing aid is a device worn on the ear that amplifies sound.

How will it help my child's hearing loss?

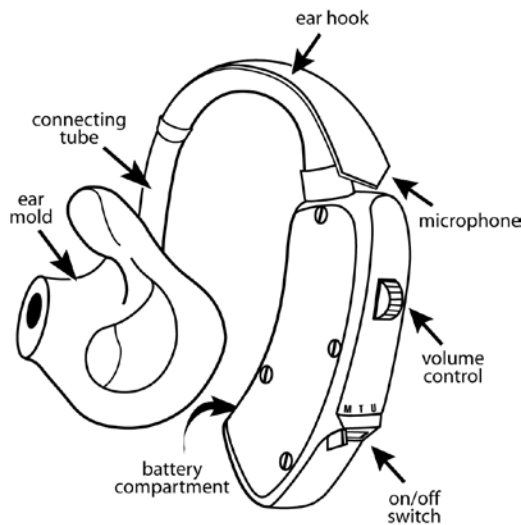
The hearing aid is chosen and designed to amplify sound based upon your child's hearing loss. The hearing aid provides the greatest amplification at the frequencies (pitches) where your child has the most hearing loss and the least amplification at the frequencies where your child has the least hearing loss. Your child's hearing aid will be carefully adjusted to keep loud sounds within your child's comfortable listening range.

Will the hearing aid restore my child's hearing?

Hearing aids do not make hearing normal again, but they can help make speech sound clearer and easier to hear.

What will the hearing aid look like? Does it fit inside my child's ear?

Younger children are usually fit with behind-the-ear hearing aids. Behind-the-ear hearing aids can be used with a personal FM system to help children hear the teacher in the classroom. When children get older and are no longer growing quickly, they can sometimes switch to in-the-ear hearing aids.

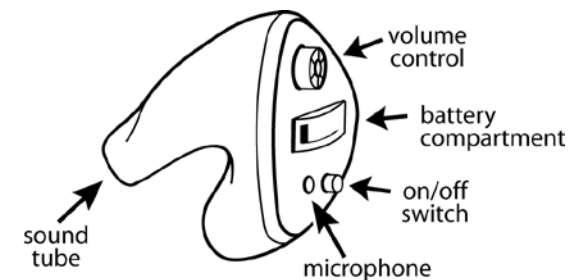


behind the ear hearing aid

They look complicated. What do all those parts do?

The hearing aid and ear mold have a few parts. Here's what they do:

1. The microphone picks up the sound from the environment.
2. The sound is sent through the inside of the hearing aid, where it is either preserved as a waveform through an analogue processor or converted into binary digits through a digital processor.
3. The hearing aid processor (analogue or digital) amplifies the sound to the right level for your child, according to the results of your child's hearing assessment.
4. The processed (amplified) sound is sent through the ear hook, which attaches the hearing aid to the tubing of the ear mold.
5. The ear mold (specially made to fit the shape of your child's ear) directs the processed sound to your child's eardrum.



in the ear hearing aid

The dispensing audiologist will provide you with step-by-step instructions in the use and care of the hearing aid.

Contact information:

Audiology Department
Room K2-192
Hours: 8:30 to 4:30
(604) 875-2112
website: <http://www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/ClinicalDiagnosticFamilyServices/Audiology/default.htm>

Hearing Aids

*Developed by the health care professionals
of the Audiology Department with
assistance from the Department of
Learning & Development*



4480 Oak Street Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3V4
604-875-2345
www.bcchildrens.ca