



Deaf Children New Zealand | Tamariki Turi O Aotearoa

Communication & Hearing | Technology

Technology

The technology available to deaf or hard of hearing people is progressing at an amazing rate.

Compared to the hearing aid of a few decades ago, hearing aids for both adults and children now are incredibly tiny and high-tech, with the ability to direct sound, to filter background noises and to connect wirelessly to other devices.

The introduction of the cochlear implant has added another facet to the technology available, and with such tools as FM systems, iPads in schools and sound-field systems in classrooms, Deaf or Hard of Hearing children have far better access to education in schools.

Hearing tests, Audiology and Audiograms

You will probably be on a crash course in Audiology during the first year or so of your child being diagnosed with a hearing loss. Sometimes this can be very overwhelming and often the vocabulary is hard to understand and delivered frighteningly fast.

Understanding the audiogram

You can watch an [Audiology presentation](#) on youtube, by Neil Heslop, Audiologist, van Asch Deaf Education Centre and Paul Perryman, explaining the Audiogram - a recording a child's hearing thresholds and cochlear implants.

Useful links

Here are a few links to sites that explain some of the information you may have been given.

- [Understanding your child's hearing tests](#) - British National Deaf Children's Society
- [What is an Audiogram](#) - Hands and Voices
- [What is an Audiogram and other questions](#) - Hearing Link (Scotland)
- [Some questions for parents to ask at hearing appointments](#) - Early Hearing Detection & Intervention - Pediatric Audiology Links (EHDI PALs)
- [How do we hear?](#) - Aussie Deaf Kids

Hearing Aids

A hearing aid is a small electrical machine which fits in or behind a person's ear. The purpose of a hearing aid is to make sounds louder so the person can hear spoken words and other sounds' - Simple Wikipedia.



There are many different options in regards to hearing aids, with a number of companies producing them around the world. They can come in different colors, sizes and with different options for varying needs. The benefits of hearing aids will depend on the level of hearing loss, and the causes of that loss.

A summary is available here '[What is a hearing aid?](#)' from Hearing Link (Scotland).

If your child is to be fitted with hearing aids, there are a few things that you will need to do to keep them working at their very best.



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The links below give a great list from Auzzie Deaf Kids and some handy tips on ear moulds.

- [Looking after heading aids](#)
- [Handy hints about ear moulds](#)

The challenges of keeping Hearing Aids (and Cochlear Implants) on

Keeping hearing aids or cochlear implants on children, particularly small children and babies can seem like an impossible task. Every parent of a deaf/hard of hearing child could give you story after story of tricks they have tried, and just as many stories of the epic fails of keeping the hardware on their children. Below is a resource that has been created by NZ parents who have overcome (or are in the process of overcoming) these difficulties and who have passed on their knowledge through our Tips for keeping cochlear implants or hearing aids on.

Tips for keeping hearing aids and cochlear implants is a Powerpoint presentation available on the [Information Sheets page](#) on our website.

Success for Kids

Success for Kids with Hearing Loss is a US website with hints and tips for both parents and teachers, it has a good article on 'Strategies for keeping hearing aids on young children'.

<http://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/hearing-aids-on>

Hands and Voices

A parent led organisation in the US, and have some wonderful parent written tips for almost every question you may have.

Read an article called '[Equipment and Babies: Not Quite Mission Impossible](#)' on the Hands and voices website.

Pre-School and School

For information to give to your child's classroom teacher,

[Acoustics and Socialisation](#) - For Teachers - Things to be aware of within a classroom to ensure that all children have

access to conversation within the classroom, and the importance of 'overhearing'.

'[The Starting School checklist](#)' on the Auzzie Deaf Kids website, is a list of things to take with you when deciding on the school your child will attend.

- Please note there are other resources for teachers on the [Information Sheets page](#) on our website.



Cochlear Implant

A cochlear implant (CI) is a surgically implanted electronic device that provides a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly deaf or severely hard of hearing' - Wikipedia.

A cochlear implant is sometimes recommended when there is little to no natural hearing left in the ear. Where a hearing aid amplifies the sound (rather like a microphone) a cochlear implant



is a device that is implanted directly into the 'cochlear' of the ear, or the part that turns sound into brainwaves.

A cochlear implant will not work for all types of hearing loss, so if you have questions about your personal situation it is best to talk to your audiologist. If your child is referred for a cochlear implant, you will have a number of appointments and meetings before the surgery. Usually surgery will be an overnight stay in

hospital with a follow up appointment a few days later.

You will have ongoing visits with one of the Cochlear Implant programmes (see 'Associated Organisations' in the Resources drop down above) to fit the processor, 'map' the electrodes to provide the right sounds and test the hearing through the CI.

[What is a cochlear implant?](#) provides a brief summary of what cochlear implants are and how they work.

The New Zealand Cochlear Implant Group (NZCIG)

NZCIG is a closed group on Facebook for users and families of those with Cochlear Implants. It is a good forum to discuss questions about cochlear implants and learn more hints and tips from other parents.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nzcig/>

The challenges of keeping cochlear implants (and hearing aids) on

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Tips for keeping hearing aids and cochlear implants on (PPT, 1.7Mb) is available to read and/or download from on the [Information Sheets page](#) on our website.



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Cochlear Implant School Toolkit

While this is a set of resources aimed at children with cochlear implants, many of the resources work for children with hearing aids. The kit provides information for parents, for teachers and for schools, along with printable resources and DVD's.

Unilateral Hearing Loss

Unilateral Hearing Loss is the loss of hearing in one ear – can be mild to profound (deaf). Can be permanent or temporary depending on the reason for the loss.

Some hearing loss can not be explained as the inner workings of the ear are very delicate and cannot be seen.

They may require a hearing aid in their hearing ear to support their hearing.

- Tips for Unilateral Hearing Loss (PPT, 114Kb) is a resource for parents/ caregivers written by NZ parents, it's available to read and/or download on the [Information Sheets page](#) on our website.
- [Unilateral hearing loss resource](#) from Success for Kids with Hearing Loss website.

Contact Us

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Go to www.deafchildren.org.nz

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