

## Hearing Aids

Hearing aids are like mini-computers that are worn on the ears that make sounds louder and shape the sounds so that they fit each individual's hearing loss. The goal of hearing aids is to make all of the sounds of speech audible, at least when the talker is close to the listener and it is quiet. This can usually be accomplished because most children who have hearing loss have some useable hearing. However, there are some children who have so much hearing loss that no hearing aid will allow them to hear all of the sounds of speech. Hearing aids don't restore normal hearing like glasses can restore normal vision. Almost all children who wear hearing aids will still have more problems than people without hearing loss understanding speech clearly from a distance, in noise or when spoken quickly ([www.successforkidswithhearingloss.com](http://www.successforkidswithhearingloss.com)).

### Simple Troubleshooting Tips for Hearing Aids (HA)

#### No sound

1. Make sure the hearing aid is turned on (usually is accomplished by having the battery door shut)
2. Replace battery
  - Make sure battery is inserted "+" side up (see picture below)
  - Remove the tab on the battery before inserting it into the hearing aid. Make sure that when you put a new battery in the hearing aid that you let the battery sit out for a couple of minutes after pulling off the sticker. The battery is "air activated" and needs to be exposed to the air for a few minutes.
3. Check the earmold and make sure that it is not blocked with wax or other debris
  - Remove earmold from HA earhook; clean earmold with soapy water; dry with air blower

#### Whistling/feedback sound

1. Make sure the earmold is in the ear properly
  - Look at mold closely while in the student's ear -- make sure it's 100% tucked into all crevices of ear
2. Check earmold to see if clogged with wax; clean out with wax loop
3. Have the school nurse check child's ear canal for substantial ear wax

#### Aid sounds softer than usual, has static when you listen to it, or only works intermittently

1. Use the drying box or canister from your hearing aid care kit (if available), and listen again.
2. Replace the battery because it may be weak or defective.

*\*If any of these problems persist after troubleshooting attempts, notify the student's parent(s) of the situation so that they can contact his/her managing audiologist.*

