

Consider This.....If You Are Still In The Process Of Making A Purchase

Consider the environments in which your child needs amplification. Do you know how the hearing aids or assistive listening device will be used on the playground? In the classroom? At home? Ask the audiologist to explain his or her recommendations. Why one type of Assistive Listening Devices over another? Know what options exist. Some devices connect directly to hearing aids. Will this assistive device be "worthless" should the hearing aids change?

Some devices are totally separate and portable. Knowing your child, which kind will he or she be more likely to feel comfortable using? Comfortable means more likely to comply with use!

Compliance is something which is sometimes paramount in your decision making process, particularly if your child is getting his/her first amplification device at an older age.

Consider This.....Once You Have Them

Insurance

When you purchase hearing aids from an audiologist they are typically "covered" for one year against loss or damage. Most audiologists have information about companies who will insure your hearing aids after that point. However, if you own a home or have renter's insurance, check to see if you can add them on as a rider.



School

When your child is using hearing aids or an assistive listening device at school which you have purchased, be sure to specify who at school has the responsibility to insure that these devices are working properly.

Likewise, if the school has procured the assistive listening device, be sure you ask how it will be maintained, and how your child's listening needs will be addressed in the event of a malfunction.

Resource

The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf offers a free six month membership to parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing. With this membership comes an initial mailing of information and a subscription to the magazine *Volta Voices*, which is a wonderful resource.

Alexander Graham Bell Association
3417 Volta Place NW
Washington, DC 20007
1-800-HEAR KID (432-7546)
Web site: www.agbell.org

For further information on types of assistive listening devices or hearing aids contact:

Family Voices of ND
Health Information and Educational Center
PO Box 163
Edgeley, ND 58433
1-888-522-9654
www.fvnd.org or e-mail fvnd@drtel.net

How to Fund Hearing Aids and Assistive Listening Devices



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How to Fund Hearing Aids and Assistive Listening Devices

Families often encounter barriers to funding for hearing aids or assistive listening devices. ND Family Voices has created this brochure to help with accessing funding sources.

Private Insurance

Hearing aids, when covered by private insurance are usually listed under "Durable Medical Equipment." Check this section of your policy to see if they are covered or excluded. Some policies will pay for one hearing aid only. Keep in mind, however, that some families have successfully appealed initial denials, even when hearing aids are not covered on the plan.

Public Funding Sources

ND Healthy Steps - 1-877-KIDSNOW or (1-877-543-7669) ND Healthy Steps, State Children's Health Insurance Program, covers hearing aids for children who meet eligibility guidelines.

Children's Special Health Services-1-800-755-2714
Program for Children with Special Health Care needs. Income eligibility requirements.

North Dakota Medical Assistance-1-800-755-2604, covers hearing aids for children who meet eligibility guidelines.

Rehabilitation Consulting & Services-Funding for individuals over 14 yrs of age, if you can demonstrate they are required for employment.

Contact RCS regional offices located at the regional Human Service Centers.



The HIKE Fund-(Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment) c/o International Center for Job's Daughters Tel: (402) 592-7987 Web site: <http://www.caiojd.org/grcouncil/HIKE.htm>
Request must come directly from the family, and must be submitted and approved *prior* to purchase.

Disabled Children's Relief Fund Tel: (516) 377-1605. Web site: <http://www.dcrf.com/>
Applications available between April and September. Will grant between \$100. - \$1,000 (average grant is \$200.) for children up to age 18 yrs.

Children's Charity Fund

Tel: (800) 643-5787 or (941) 925-9689 Web site: www.childrenscharityfund.org Documentation of insurance denial needs to be provided.

Miracle Ear Children's Foundation

Tel: 1-800-234-5422
Website: www.miracle-ear.com

Family income level must exceed limits for public support, but be too low to make hearing aids affordable. The child must be a U.S. Citizen and aged 16 yrs or younger.

First Hand Foundation

c/o Cerner Cooperation
Tel: (816) 201-1569
Web site: www.cerner.com/firsthand

Must demonstrate financial need of family and health benefit to child.



The Starkey Hearing Foundation Hear Now Program

Tel: (800) 648-4327
Website: www.sotheworldmayhear.org
Assist with financial support as well as takes donations of salvaged hearing aids and assistive devices.

Travelers Protective Association of America, Scholarship Trust for the Deaf and Near Deaf

Tel: (800) 914-2775
Website: www.tpahq.org Provides financial assistance to individuals of all ages. Completed applications must be returned by March 1st each year.

Other Sources:

Some service organizations will also assist with hearing devices and technology such as the Sertomas, Quotas, etc. Search the Yellow Pages for an organization in your local area.

For more information on North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Contact:
<http://ndcpd.misu.nodak.edu/proj/NDEHDI/contact.shtml> or 1-800-233-1737

