

CRAZY CONTAINER



Help your child create a special place to store their hearing devices.

THINK ABOUT...

Your child can learn about his or her hearing devices beginning at a very young age. As part of this, it is important for your child to learn about how to care for the hearing devices, as well as develop self-advocacy skills that will be useful as your child gets older. This activity is designed to help your child see their hearing device as something special and something that needs to be taken care of. You can work together to create a special container and space where their device will be stored while they are sleeping.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A small container (soap box, jewelry box, or any container that your child has picked out that is special to them)
- Decorations (scissors, glue, glitter, spray paint, stickers, stick on foam shapes, etc..)

ACTIVITY

- 1- After you and your child have selected the container and materials you would like to use, set everything out on the table.
- 2- Using acoustic highlighting, talk about the different materials you are using and introduce a variety of descriptive words. Encourage your child to describe why they picked the items they did.
- 3- This is a great opportunity to talk with your child about how he or she feels about their device. Ask open ended questions that avoid having "yes/no" answers. Wait at least 8-10 seconds after you ask your question (wait time) so your child has time to process the question and think of a meaningful answer. Provide suggested answers as needed depending on your child's age. As you do this you can talk about the device, how to care for it, and talk about what your child can do if it isn't working properly.
- 4- It is important for your child to learn how to recognize when his/her device isn't working. This takes practice, but you can start to have these conversations when they are very young.
- 5- After you have created your crazy container, find a secure spot for it in the house that is safe and easy to access.
- 6- Have fun and be as creative as you want!

****REMEMBER:** There are times when the hearing aids will need to be placed in a Dri-Aid kit to help remove moisture. In areas with high humidity, this may be necessary every night. If so, you could help your child decorate the Dri-Aid container with stickers, paper, or other decorations rather than using a separate container. Even in areas with low humidity, the Dri-Aid kit should be used on a regular basis. You can ask your child's audiologist if you have questions about this. The container itself isn't as important as the self-advocacy skills your child can learn.

PREPARATION

- 1- Take a special shopping trip or hunt around the house with your child to gather materials that they want to use to create a resting space for their device. Make the creation of this container the focus so your child is excited about the project.
- 2- Talk about how your child can learn to take care of his/her hearing devices.

VOCABULARY:

- Use this opportunity to talk about the specific parts of your child's device. This can be the magnet, cochlear, cords, hearing aid, BAHA, and strap. If able, help your child to say the parts of their device so they can learn the names and function.
- **CAUTION:** children can learn about batteries under adult supervision. It is recommended that devices have tamper-proof battery doors. Extra batteries should be kept out of reach of young children.

HELPFUL TIPS

- The AG Bell website has some great ideas and resources for both parent and child advocacy. For additional resources visit their website here: <http://www.agbell.org/Tertiary.aspx?id=1237>

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