

General Guidelines for the Checking of Children's Hearing Aids for Itinerant Resource Teachers of the Deaf

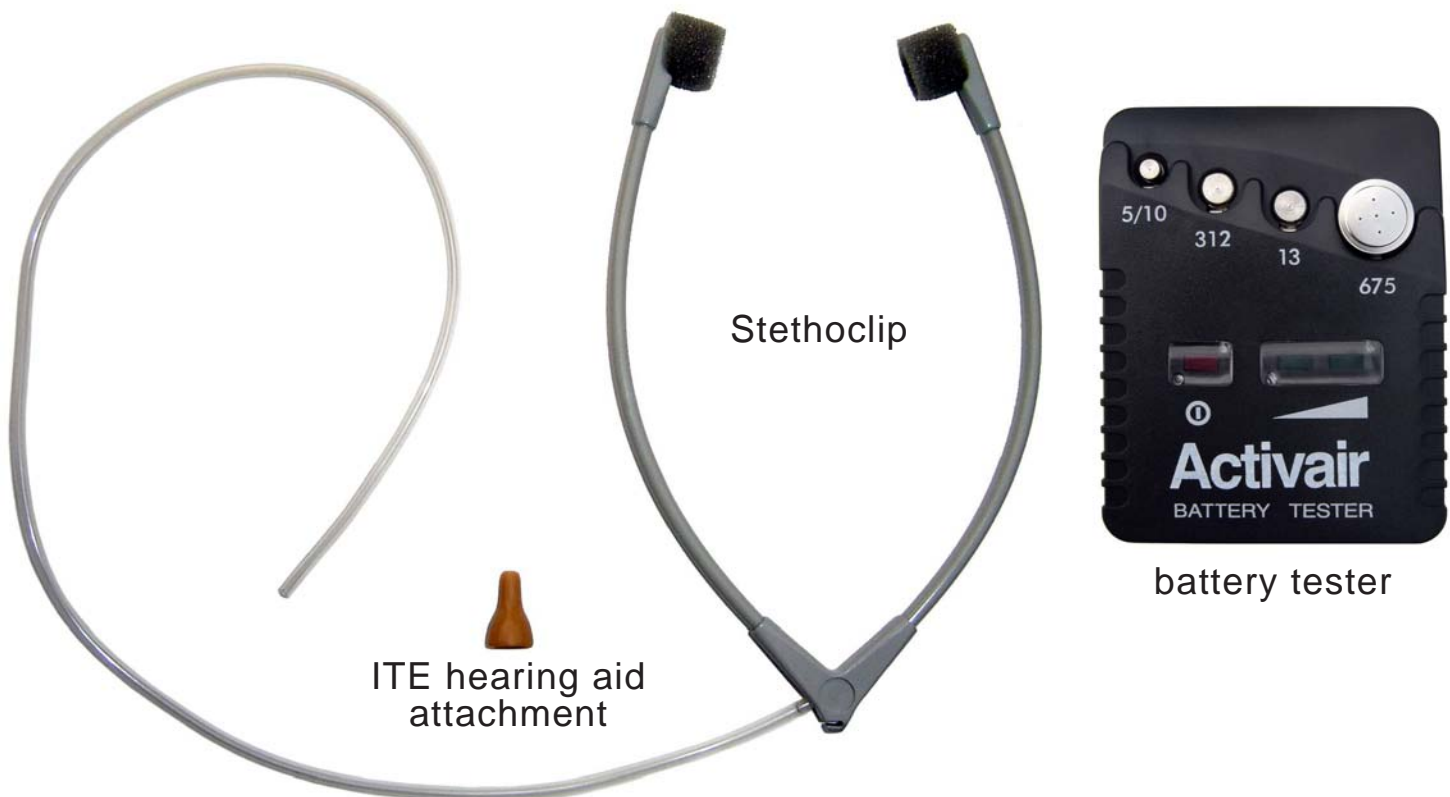
Get to know the model number of the hearing aid, FM system, BAHA and CI speech processor each child is wearing.

Get to know the recommended switch/wheel positions for the instruments. This information is available from the child's audiologist. Specific details and guidelines are available from the SCIP-P staff for the checking of CI speech processors.

Avoid starting lessons, assessments or support/intervention for any child until you are certain that the child's hearing aids are working correctly.

Make it a routine to check the child's hearing instruments and/or the child's hearing while wearing the same instruments. Use your experience and judgment about how far you need to proceed into the checking routines below for each child when you arrive in the classroom. Checking the instruments is the most important activity – this means looking at them and listening to them.

Have a complete set of checking tools and batteries available for the instruments worn by the children on your caseload - Stethoclip, battery tester, earmould puffer, cleaning tools.



Regular personal hearing aid checking involves:

- A visual inspection (aid plus earmould), a battery voltage test, and a listening test of the aid via stethoscope with the aid set to classroom switch position.
 - You may need to do some earmould cleaning.
 - Testing the child's hearing for speech via the hearing aids (making sure the earmoulds are correctly inserted in the ears, and the hearing aids are switched on correctly).
- The Ling 6-Sound test is ideal for this task.

earmould



Regular FM system checking involves:

- Inspection of the security and correctness of attachment of DAI (audio) shoe/FM receiver to personal hearing aid.
 - Checking that the FM transmitter has been recharged.
 - Testing the child's hearing for speech via the FM transmitter and one hearing aid on at a time.
- The Ling 6-Sound test is ideal for this task. See appendix 1 below for procedures for the testing of the function of the FM system.

Deal with any concerns about hearing aid, speech processor or FM device physical state or function as soon as possible. Your resource people at VADEC can be contacted at any time during working hours for support.

Hospital audiology clinics are generally open from 8:30 – 4:30 each day.

Confirm the best contact times for each clinic/audiologist/adviser you liaise with for emergencies.

Appendix 1: Guidelines for the Checking of Children's FM Systems.

You will need the student's hearing aids, FM receivers and shoes, and the teacher's transmitter.

You will need to know which hearing aid program switch setting the student uses for "FM plus M", i.e., the setting that enables both FM and the hearing aid's own microphone to be active at the same time. This is normally the default switch-on setting of the hearing aids, but if in doubt ask the student, and if the student can't tell you, contact the adviser or audiologist.

FM receiver



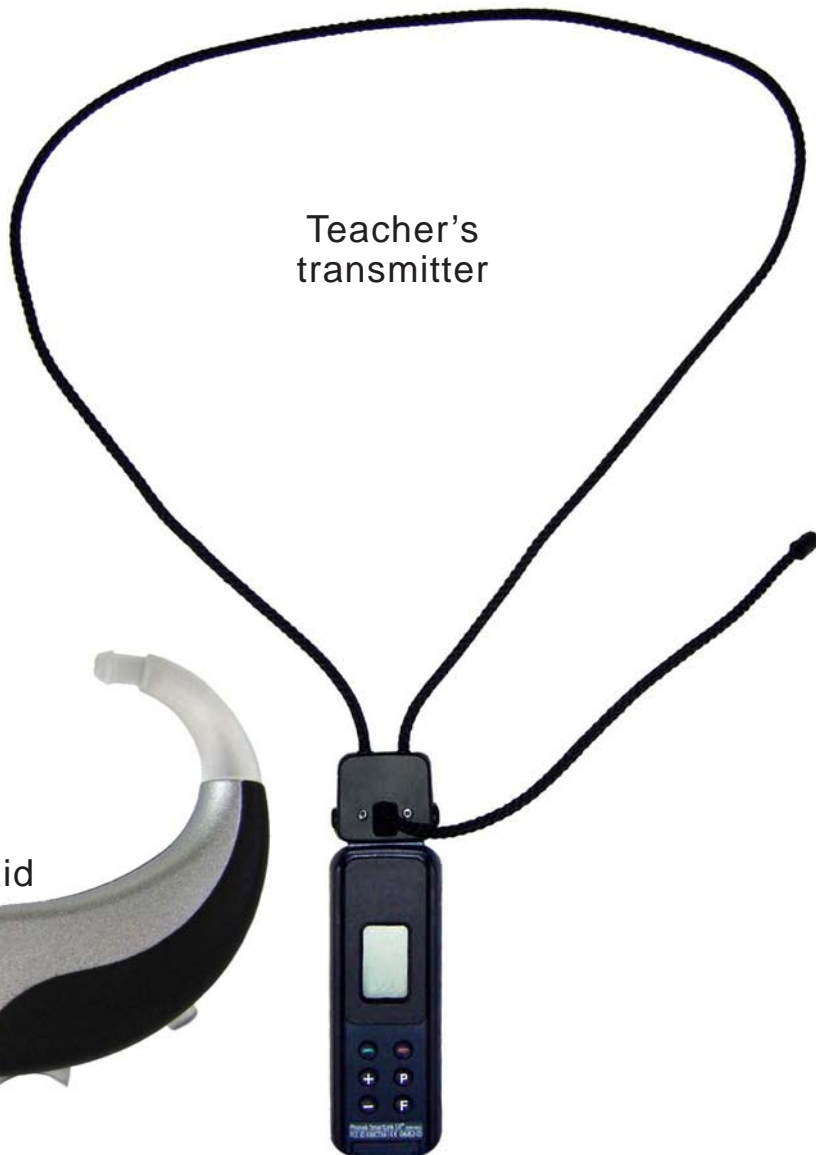
FM shoe



hearing aid



Teacher's transmitter



Procedure:

- Find a quiet spot away from noisy classrooms. Note the responses to the Ling 6-Sound Test carried out with student wearing personal hearing aids alone.
- Turn on the teacher's transmitter and fit it to yourself, with the microphone in the correct position.
- Ensure that the FM receiver unit is connected to each personal hearing aid correctly, it is switched to the correct setting on the receiver unit, and ensure that the hearing aids are switched to receive FM + M.
- Turn off one hearing aid and administer the 6 – Sound Test standing about 6-7 metres from the student. Ensure that the student performs the test to the same level as they did with hearing aids alone.
- Repeat the above step with the second hearing aid switched on and first aid tested switched off. (If the child has different hearing sensitivity in each ear, this process can still be followed).
- If the FM system is functioning correctly, the student will perform the 6-Sound Test in the same way from day to day. If the performance is different or seriously affected, and you have completed the basic system checks in the general guidelines section, either further FM system troubleshooting is needed, or the student's ears or hearing needs to be checked by the student's support people.