

Early days with the device

The aim is for your child to use his/her cochlear implants all the time s/he is awake as soon as possible. If the equipment falls off your child's ears, speak to your key contact about different ways of keeping processors on. For your child it will feel not only sound different but also feel different.

The **most important thing** is that your child associates the processor with **pleasure** - something **really enjoyable**. Your positive attitude to your child's increased access to new sounds will help your child to take the new sounds s/he does not recognise in his/her stride.

The same techniques you used for introducing the hearing aids should help:

- Always approach the wearing of the device positively, persistently and with the commitment that s/he will wear it
- Think about the levels of noise when you put it on – quiet calm conditions are best to start off with to avoid unpleasant sensation (avoid background noise like the TV, radio, car engine etc)
- Show her/him the device before you put it on each time so s/he is prepared
- Make it a normal part of her day – putting it on when she gets up
- If s/he removes it, distract her give her a short break and then try again
- Engage her right away in some distracting activity like sharing a book or playing a game
- Don't make a fuss if s/he takes it off again – just wait a moment and try again
- Do not make the taking it off and putting it on again a game
- Don't be anxious if s/he keeps taking it off – it takes time and we don't want her/him to sense anxiety

If these techniques are not enough, ask for a “Challengers” information pack or go to the ‘Challengers’ section of our USAIS website.

Audiologist usually are very cautious with children's settings, but if you feel that your child is finding the sensation unpleasant or uncomfortable, report this as soon as possible to our department on 023 8059 3522. If you want to have a chat, feel free to ring for advice or support.