

Southwark Hearing Support Services
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South East London Support Services for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children joint Personal Amplification Systems Guidance for preschool children

July 2018

**Based on Quality Standards for the use of
personal radio aids**

**This document is for guideline purposes and will be applied on
a case by case basis. This document was developed jointly by six
South East London boroughs (Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham,
Bromley, Bexley and Royal Greenwich)**

Eligibility criteria

- Every child with a permanent bilateral hearing loss of any degree and long standing aided conductive hearing loss is considered a potential candidate for provision of a personal assistive listening device as part of their amplification package. (ALD – Assistive Listening Device).
- The Hearing Support Service (HSS) will provide parents or carers of deaf children with balanced information about ALD equipment as part of routine intervention and in order for families to make an informed choice.
- A strong commitment to oversee the management of the equipment is required from the family before an ALD is issued. Parental commitment to amplification equipment includes the following:
 - Attendance at set audiological appointments

- To maintain contact with their Hearing Support Service, to regularly report usage benefits and challenges.
- An understanding that the equipment is on loan.
- To take good care of the equipment.
- To follow advice and guidelines on use and safety.
- To co-operate with the Hearing Support Service in sharing information about safe use of the equipment to others that regularly support the child.

Amplification device prerequisites:

- Hearing aid battery drawers must be lockable and ear-level receivers must be either integrated or lockable onto the hearing aid.
- Activation of appropriate audio input features.
- All transmitters to have easy release lanyard clips or safe pocket clips, if available.

Funding of additional personal amplification systems:

Whenever possible the Teachers of the Deaf will assist a child with a hearing loss and their family in trying additional amplification systems through the HSS equipment scheme (if equipment available), or using the NDCS Equipment Loan Scheme.

All personal additional amplification equipment is kept centrally by the HSS and re-allocated as equipment becomes available.

Equipment purchased by the Hearing Support Service remains the property of the service at all times.

All equipment upgrades will be in accordance with need.

Fitting of additional personal amplification systems:

- Radio aid should be set up as FM+M programme unless advised otherwise e.g. to take advantage of new technology.
- Radio Aid FM advantage protocol is applied at least once a year and when any of the hearing/ radio aid components are re-set or changed.
- Build a family's confidence in their use of the amplification equipment by teaching them how to operate it, and how to troubleshoot it and also how to be confident in observing and monitoring their child's listening responses.
- HSS will increase level of support in the short term in order to support a child, family and nursery staff in understanding and using the new amplification equipment.

- HSS will organise in-house training for nursery staff who are in contact with the amplification system if appropriate.
- Written information about the ALD, its settings and appropriate use should be shared with early years staff and parents.
- Where possible, developmentally-appropriate speech discrimination tests will be administered with and without ALD system to evaluate the benefits of the equipment within 6 weeks of its issue.
- When radio aid components are faulty, the HSS service will assist in organising repair.
- Initial fitting and setting up of an ALD system with a cochlear implant speech processor is carried out by an appropriately trained professional.
- All equipment issued by HSS must be returned to HSS in working order.

Additional amplification equipment maintenance:

- The equipment must be checked daily by parent or carer using subjective testing methods shown to them by the HSS.
- Radio Aid FM Advantage protocol is applied at least once a year and when any of the hearing/ radio aid components are re-set or changed.
- Audiological records to be kept in the HSS child's file and shared with audiology clinics and other appropriate professionals with parental consent.
- The benefits of additional amplification equipment must be evaluated by the Teacher of Deaf at least once a year.
- Evaluation must also include feedback from parent and early year's staff when appropriate.
- Speech discrimination tests carried out in different listening conditions if appropriate.
- There must be close liaison between the HSS and audiology clinics, including the exchange of written information and joint training.

This guidance is imbedded in local HSS Policies and Procedures and will be reviewed on annual basis. The next review to be carried out in September 2019.