Here are 10 care tips for your child’s hearing devices

1. **Clean your child’s hearing device daily.**
   Clean the housing with a lint-free cloth or use a small brush such as soft-bristled toothbrush. On no account should harsh detergents or alcohol be used for cleaning. Cleaning using mild soap and water only is recommended for the earmolds when they are disconnected from the hearing device.

2. **Protect the hearing devices against extremely low and high temperatures.**
   Extreme temperatures can damage the internal components of a hearing device. Therefore avoid longer exposure to colder weather and to sources of heat, such as hair dryers, the stove, heaters, open flames, hot cars and even direct sunlight.

3. **Don’t let your child swim or shower with the hearing device.**
   Behind the ear hearing aids, bone anchored hearing aids and cochlear Implant processors, unless otherwise specified, are not made to use in the water or to get wet. If, by accident, a hearing device does get damp or wet, proceed as follows:
   - **Retrieve it immediately!** Remove the battery pack or batteries. Shake as much moisture off as possible.
   - **Wipe it dry.** Put it in a dri-aid kit and leave it over night. Check the next morning. If there is no sound or a deterioration in quality, send in for repair. There is no guarantee that it will be possible to repair it.

   **If you haven’t got a dri-aid**
   - Remove the batteries and leave it to dry out (with battery compartment open) at room temperature for a few hours. It may be fine after this.

   **On no account**
   Use a hairdryer, microwave oven or other equipment to attempt to speed up the drying process as this may cause further damage!
4. Keep your child’s hearing aid away from dirt.
Ensure you and your child have clean fingers when touching the hearing devices, see that the tiny microphone input does not get blocked with dirt.

5. When applying hair spray, the hearing devices should be removed.
This is especially useful tip for teenagers. Spray and other cosmetic items can damage the devices, so they should always be removed before use.

6. Store and ventilate the hearing devices in a safe place when not in use.
Before bed time, put the hearing devices in their storage box, remove the batteries and open the battery door for some ventilation overnight. If your child is old enough, get them used to doing this task daily. Put batteries on charger if needed.

7. Keep batteries and devices out of reach from babies, toddler and pets.
Smaller children and dogs are very curious and quite often tiny batteries and the hearing devices end up in their mouths and hands. In fact, one of the most common accidents with a hearing device is a pet thinking it is lunch. Therefore, it’s important that hearing instruments and their batteries are always stored in a safe place.

8. Avoid dropping the hearing devices.
Hearing devices can get damaged if they hit hard surfaces. When cleaning or changing batteries, hold the hearing device over a soft surface. Explain to your child the importance of taking good care of their devices.

9. Consider to get a hearing device dehumidifier.
Children usually lead a much more active life than adults – playing on the school yards, having their sports lessons or jumping in mud puddles. Therefore sweat, humidity from their surroundings and ear wax build up moisture, which can easily be removed by a dehumidifier.

10. Visit the hearing care professional regularly.
Seeing a hearing care professional on a regular basis does offer some advantages: as a parent you can be confident that the hearing aids get checked and cleaned properly, prolonging their life span, and your questions can be answered by a professional.

Adapted from article by Cecilia Zugaib for HearingLikeMe - “10 Care Tips”