

6. Evaluation of personal radio aids for individual children

Evaluation is an important aspect of the fitting and ongoing use of a personal radio aid. A standardised systematic approach to evaluation enables you to identify and compare the benefit for each child.

Speech testing in quiet and babble noise is a commonly used procedure. Each speech test has its own standardised format and scoring rationale; sufficient data needs to be collected to ensure significant results within its known confidence bands.

Good liaison between health and education personnel and within Children's Services is an essential part of the evaluation process.

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Subjective and objective evaluation of a personal radio aid system to determine its benefit must be carried out.

- Both subjective and objective measures are important for a comprehensive assessment.
- Subjective tests should be carried out daily.
- Objective tests should be carried out every half term or whenever a problem with equipment arises.
- Observation and questionnaires are important – seek the views of those working with the child, including parents, when the system is used at home.
- The child should understand the purpose of the radio aid and you should seek their views where possible.
- The professional with day-to-day responsibility for the system should collate and share the findings with the child, parents and all relevant professionals including paediatric audiologists.
- The results where appropriate should inform an individual management plan.
- See the *Good Practice Guide for Radio Aids* for a suggested procedure for speech-in-noise evaluation and the equipment needed.



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There must be close liaison between health and education teams, including the exchange of written information relating to the use of the child's personal radio aid system.¹³

- Liaison relates to all stages from candidacy through to evaluation.
- The need to change the amplification package as the child matures will impact both health and education teams. Close liaison will ensure the child's radio system continues to be optimal.
- Joint training sessions provide an opportunity to share this information. They will also encourage closer liaison and a better understanding of the different roles of staff within a comprehensive hearing aid fitting service.¹⁴

13. *Modernising Children's Hearing Aid Services: Guidelines for Professional Links between Audiology and Education Services within a Children's Hearing Aid Service.* 2005. www.research.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/mchas/aboutus/guidelines (accessed 20 January 2017).

14. *Modernising Children's Hearing Aid Services: Guidelines for Professional Links between Audiology and Education Services within a Children's Hearing Aid Service.* 2005. www.research.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/mchas/aboutus/guidelines (accessed 20 January 2017).