

### Hearing aids versus Amplifiers - What's the Difference?

By: Dr. Jill Greinert, Au.D., CCC-A

Some of our patients have asked what the difference is between purchasing a hearing aid and purchasing an ear amplifier. Below is the distinction between the two processes.

#### HEARING AIDS

- The first step to purchasing hearing aids is scheduling a diagnostic hearing assessment, preferably by an audiologist.
- An audiologist holds either a Master's or Doctorate and performs specialized tests which assess the general health of the patient's ears and which establish the type and severity of hearing loss.
- Should a medical concern be identified from the patient's diagnostic hearing assessment, a referral is made to the appropriate medical professional, typically an Ear, Nose, and Throat Physician.
- If it is determined that the patient is a candidate for a hearing aid, their hearing test results are analyzed to obtain a hearing aid with the appropriate power level and acoustic parameters. The patient's lifestyle, communication needs and dexterity concerns are also taken into account.
- Measurements or ear mold impressions are made in-office by a hearing care professional in order to achieve maximum comfort and a good quality fit.
- The hearing aid is ordered and, upon receipt, is programmed with the patient's hearing test results. Programming is a frequency-specific prescription, in order to provide the appropriate level of amplification in the hearing range where it is needed most (based on results obtained in the hearing assessment).
- Programming is manipulated by the hearing care professional for sound quality and audibility and is verified via Real Ear Measures (REM) to ensure that the patient's hearing prescription is being met.
- Several follow-up visits are typically required to ensure maximum comfort and benefit, and also to ensure that the patient feels confident in their ability to care for and maintain their hearing aid(s).
- Patients are protected by laws and in New York State they have a 45-day trial period, during which they can return or exchange their hearing aids if they are not satisfied.

#### AMPLIFIERS

- A hearing test is encouraged, but is not required.
- Patient may be seen by a hearing care professional, but may simply be given the parts and pieces to fit onto their ear.
- Amplifiers make sounds louder, but may or may not be specific to that patient's hearing loss. Some amplifiers allow for a broad range of volume, which may provide insufficient volume, or too much volume if used improperly.
- Patient may be seen by a hearing care professional for questions and concerns regarding sound quality, volume, and maintenance, but oftentimes are encouraged by a retailer to use their device independently, or are provided a third party phone number or website for more information.

To learn more about hearing health and how to properly protect your hearing: [Click Here](#)

RHSC Current Coupon Offers : [Click Here](#)

**ROCHESTER Hearing & Speech Center**

Dr. Jill Greinert, Au.D., CCC-A  
Clinical Audiologist, Board Certified  
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To schedule an appointment with Dr. Greinert:

Office Location:  
• Rochester/Brighton, NY  
• (585) 271-0680

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### Thank You To All That Participated WalkAbout 2019

Thank you to the Al Sigl Community of Agencies for thirty years of organizing this event and providing so much support! We are grateful to everyone who participated, all our volunteers, and the individuals who donated to this event, as well as, our sponsors:

Canandaigua National Community Foundation, Center Information Services, Complete Payroll, Davie Kaplan CPS, PC, DeCarolis Truck Rental, Inc., DeJoy, Knauf & Blood, LLP, Diamond Packaging, E3 Audio Medtrix Inc., Elite Hearing Network, Entercom, GN Hearing Care (Resound), Dr. William Guzik, DDS (Ridgewood Dental), Lawley Insurance, MICA Information Systems, Inc., Oticon USA, Phillips Lytle, LLP, Phonak, Seneca Foods Foundation, Signia, Usherwood Office Technology and Wegmans.

This event was fun, full of smiling faces and accessible for everyone.

[View RHSC Pictures Gallery: Click Here](#)  
[View Al Sigl Picture Gallery: Click Here](#)

"He is doing great! No longer shy in class."  
-Yahveh

"Entire outlook changed, it was a full circle moment."  
- Carter & Brayden

"I want a milkshake, please."  
- Mila

"I can't believe how he's almost an entirely different kid."  
- Tristan

"I could not believe my eyes and ears!"  
- Lorenzo

[Read Full Stories - Click Here](#)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**LET'S ROC!**  
Tuesday, Dec. 3rd | Online Fundraiser  
Be part of ROC The Day, a 24-hour dash to donate to those who need it most. Give \$5, \$55 or \$505. Our RHSC community needs you.  
[Donating Link - Click Here](#)

**HOLIDAY JEWELRY PARTY**  
Tuesday, Dec. 5th  
CM Jewels, Nancy Chodak  
Come pick out a holiday gift for a family member and/or friends. 20% proceeds go to RHSC  
[For More Info: Click Here](#)



### Featured Testimonial - Cooper

#### My Cooper is still in there!

Cooper is a vibrant, inquisitive, caring and empathetic five-year-old boy. But most importantly, Cooper is inspirational and his mother's hero. Cooper has overcome so many obstacles in his short five years. He battled severe milk protein intolerance at 5-weeks old which led to severe RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), as well as pneumonia, bronchiolitis, reflux and numerous other infections, all during his first year of life. To this day, Cooper still battles RAD (Reactive Airway Disease) which is an after-effect of battling RSV. What makes Cooper even more inspirational to his mom, Meghan, is his tenacity and determination while learning to cope with Global Dyspraxia, Apraxia of Speech, and Sensory Processing Disorder.

Both Dyspraxia and Apraxia are neurological conditions, affecting fine motor skills, as well as oral-motor skills and speech development. Holding a pencil or a crayon were difficult tasks, along with walking, jumping, and climbing. Cooper's speech abilities were hindered by difficulty coordinating his mouth movements, facial muscles and tongue to form sounds and words. His neurological conditions also affected the way Cooper organized his thoughts and processed information. With Cooper's Sensory Processing Disorder added to the mix – noises, smells, touch, light, clothing tags, textures and foods became overwhelming, over-stimulating, and frightening.

Learning to manage his disorders was a daunting task for Cooper and his family. Imagine being a small child trying to take in and process the world with all of its stimuli and not being equipped to communicate back; not being able to properly move your body, verbally respond, or make sense of it all. All of this was both frightening and exhausting leaving his mother saying, "So what do you do as a parent?" Cooper's mom needed to find the VERY BEST team, not only to help Cooper grow and learn new skills, but also to teach him how to cope within his world and provide him the tools to deal with his unique challenges.

To read more about Cooper: [Click Here](#)

## CARE CORNER

### Tips to Help Children of all Abilities Participate in Halloween Fun!

By Emily LaCoppola, M.S., CCC-SLP and Sofia Halaris, M.S., OTR/L



Halloween is just around the corner and it can be an exciting time. It's a time to pick costumes, dress up, and fill your bellies with candy! While this is true for most children, for others, it can be a stressful and overwhelming experience.

Whether a child struggles with language, sensory processing, fine motor skills, or gross motor skills, there are numerous ways to help accommodate children with special needs so that they can participate in all the Halloween fun!

Here are some tips to keep in mind when you are preparing for trick-or-treating. Thank you for making Halloween fun for all!

#### Friendly Speech and Language Tips

- Some children are nonverbal and may not be able to say "trick-or-treat" or "thank you." Sign language or alternative communication methods can be used.
- A child may feel pressured to speak and may choose not to communicate.
- Please be sensitive to children who do not give expected social feedback.
- Some children need additional time to process information (both auditory and visual). Make sure to give kids plenty of time to respond to you and to choose a treat.

#### Sensory Friendly Tips

- Loud noises, scary decorations, or certain smells could trigger a feeling of sensory overload in a child. Keep this in mind when decorating the exterior of your home. Fog machines, strobe lights and sudden noises can have a negative effect on the trick-or-treating experience.
- A well-lit home in general is safe for all children, but especially for those who need extra assistance to navigate.
- You can spot a child who requires special care as they may be carrying a blue pumpkin, which is a significant sign for those with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Note some children may not be wearing a costume due to sensory processing concerns.
- Use glow sticks or flame less candles for external decorations to provide a safer environment.

#### Allergy/ Food Sensitivity Tips

- Have non-food treats available as an alternative to traditional Halloween candy.
- Have a variety of different Halloween candies available of different textures (e.g. crunchy, smooth, chewy, etc.).
- Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE)'s Teal Pumpkin Project: Purchase or paint a teal pumpkin to place outside your home. This will let families know that you have non-food treats available.

#### Fine and Gross Motor Tips

- Some children may find it difficult to isolate and pick up a piece of candy. They often will take more than one piece of candy because they have poor fine motor skills. If this is the case, pass candy out providing two different choices.
- Place treats in an easily accessible area, and container, for children who have difficulties reaching, walking, or climbing stairs.
- Bring the treat bowl to the child or a family member so it is easier for him or her to access.

For more information on how to host an inclusive Halloween: [Click Here](#)

### Have a Question | Schedule Appointment

Our knowledgeable Audiologists & Educational and Clinical Services Staff can answer all your questions.

Call one of our three convenient locations or [Email](#)

**Brighton:** 585.271.0680 | **Greece:** 585.723.2140 | **Webster:** 585.286.9373

To learn more about Rochester Hearing and Speech Center - [www.rhsc.org](http://www.rhsc.org)

