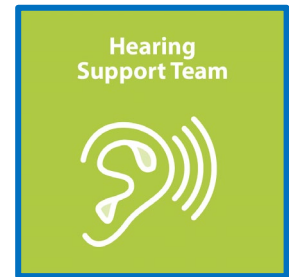


Button Batteries - Safeguarding Alert



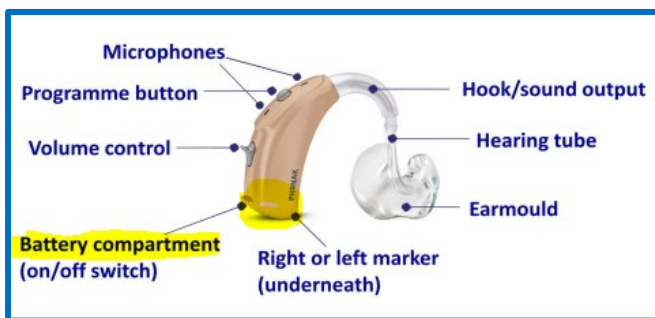
**Are you working with children under the age of 5 or those with a vulnerability?
Are you aware of the serious health risk posed by button batteries?**

Many toys and gadgets used in homes and educational settings are operated by button batteries. This includes electronic games, remote controls, key fobs, calculators.

Children diagnosed with a hearing loss will have these batteries inside their hearing aids or cochlear implant processors too unless they have been fitted with a rechargeable model.

Button batteries are small and lightweight and if not handled with care, these can fast become a serious health hazard to young or vulnerable children who may put them in their mouth.

Button batteries, if swallowed, can cause severe tissue damage and even death. NHS England 2014



Are you working with a child who wears a hearing aid(s)?

Did you know that most hearing aids are operated by button batteries?

These need to be replaced on a weekly basis.

Parents/carers of children who use hearing aids, are advised to replace the button batteries at home once a week. Occasionally, professionals and staff working with the child may need to replace the batteries in the educational setting too.

If you need to replace a button battery-

Please check and ensure that:

- You store any spare batteries securely – out of all children's reach
- You replace the batteries carefully in a designated area
- You dispose of the old battery immediately using battery recycling bins where provided - or in a bin away from children.

Hearing aids of children under the age of 5, or of those with vulnerability, should have tamper-proof locks fitted. Parents/carers can show educational staff how to open these with a special tool.

If you are concerned that a child may have swallowed a button battery

The symptoms might not be obvious or the child might be coughing, gagging or drooling, or pointing to their throat or tummy. If you think a child has swallowed a battery, take them straight to the nearest A&E department or call 999 for an ambulance.

- Take the battery packaging, toy or gadget – if you can
- Trust your instincts and act fast, even if there are no symptoms
- Don't let the child eat or drink until seen by a medical professional
- Don't make the child be sick

(Above information from www.capt.org.uk)

For more information, including safety posters, please visit: <https://capt.org.uk/button-battery-safety/>

