

## Preparing for an Audiology Appointment for Families

**PREPARE** questions for your audiologist in advance. No question is unimportant. If appropriate, encourage your child to participate in their audiological exam and prepare/ask questions themselves.

### **BRING:** (considerations for COVID protocols)

- › Your child's hearing devices (i.e., hearing aid, cochlear implant, bone conduction hearing aid) and care equipment.
- › Your child's custom seating and tray.

### **RECALL:**

- › Any history of middle ear problems, ear tubes, other ear surgery.
- › Any sounds that your child particularly enjoys.
- › Any changes in hearing you or others have noticed in your child (i.e., environments where your child is able to hear better or worse, trouble with listening over distance, sounds that are upsetting or unnoticed, inconsistencies, etc.). Encourage your child to think about any differences they've noticed and could report to the audiologist.

### **CONSIDER:**

- › Does your child have a lot of ear wax? If so, check with your family doctor about arranging ear wax removal.
- › Does your child need new earmolds for their hearing aids? If so, arrange for new earmolds at your community audiology clinic.

### **PLAN:**

- › Plan to stay at the clinic during your child's appointment. Ask the booking clerk how long you and your child will be at the audiology clinic.
- › If the appointment is for ABR (Auditory Brainstem Response) testing, review the instruction pamphlet.
- › When scheduling your appointment with the booking clerk, try to arrange a time when your child is at their best. For example, if your child has both Ophthalmology and Audiology appointments on the same day, arrange for the Audiology appointment to be earlier in the day.
- › Give yourself plenty of time; parking can be difficult. Try not to rush.
- › If you bring other children, also bring another adult to take care of them. Your undivided attention with your child during the audiology assessment is valuable.
- › If a follow-up appointment is needed, ask how it will be scheduled. Ensure the clinic has your correct address and contact information. You might be able to make the appointment before leaving.
- › Tell your audiologist who all should receive a copy of the audiological report (i.e., schools, Hearing Resource Teachers, POPDB Deafblind Consultant, daycares, at home support teams, or family doctors). Be prepared to sign the consent form for release of information.