

Benefitting from Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) Questionnaire for Families of young Deaf and Hard of Hearing children:

These questions are designed to help families of young Deaf or hard of hearing children (ages birth through 3, or newly fitted children ages 4-5) reflect on their child's experience with wearing Hearing Assistive Technology.

1. How do you feel about your child's hearing assistive technology (HAT)?
(Love it: they can finally hear, I like all of the colors available, I wish they didn't have to wear it, try not to use it in public, prefer to keep it as hidden as possible under my child's hair, etc).
2. Are other family members supportive or helpful with your child wearing their HAT? (Do they understand that your child needs the HAT? Are they willing to learn how to use it and ensure your child keeps it on when they are around your child?)
3. How do you respond when people ask what is on your child's head? (Do you have an answer ready such as: These are hearing aids, they help him/her hear better? Do you enjoy talking to people who are curious about the HAT?)
4. Have you and your child ever had the opportunity to meet other children who also use HAT? Has anyone offered you opportunities to do so?
(Opportunities can be provided through activities with Maine Hands & Voices)
5. Have you and your child ever had the opportunity to meet adults who also use HAT? Has anyone offered you opportunities to do so? (Opportunities can be provided to meet Deaf and hard of hearing adults in your own home through Maine Hands & Voices)
6. Do you feel like your child's HAT fits them well? (For hearing aids: Do the earmolds fit without causing squealing or irritation? For cochlear implants: Does the coil stay on most of the time, and do you have attachments that help keep on the part on the ear most of the time?)
7. Approximately how many hours a day does your child wear their hearing assistive technology? (The goal is for children to wear it ALL waking hours)
8. Do you feel like getting your child to wear their HAT is a struggle? If so, have you been offered supports and resources to make it easier for you and your child? (Support can be provided by a Teacher of the Deaf through Child Development Services)
9. Does your child ever remove their HAT when you don't want them to? If so, how do you respond? (For example, put it back on them, tell them no, let

them remove it, etc)

10. Does your child have any medical or other conditions that make wearing HAT difficult? (Chronic painful ear infections, smaller or unusually formed outer ears, sensitivity to things on their ears, sensitivity to loud noises, etc) Please specify. If yes, has anyone offered you support or resources to help with these conditions? (Support can be provided by a Teacher of the Deaf through Child Development Services)
11. Does your child make it difficult to put their HAT on them? (Wriggle, squirm, put their hands over their ears, try to pull the HAT off?) If so, how do you respond?
12. Do you have a routine for putting on and taking off your child's HAT? (For example, putting it on first thing in the morning before breakfast when things are quiet, or taking it off before bath time and putting it on the charger or in a special container etc)
13. Does your child use anything to prevent their HAT from becoming lost if it falls out or they try to remove it? (For example, hearing aid clips, a pilot style cap, toupee tape, a headband, the coil on an implant set to beep when it falls off, etc). Please specify.
14. Do you know what to do if your child's HAT accidentally gets wet? (Do you have a container with a silicone packet designed to dry out HAT? Do you know how to use it?)
15. Do you know how to do a listening check on your child's HAT? (Do you have headphones for a CI and know how to use the remote or program on your phone? For hearing aids, do you have a listening kit and blower and battery checker?) If yes, how frequently do you check your child's equipment? (Recommended: Daily checks until the age of 3-4 when the child is old enough to begin reporting when it is not working, then weekly checks).
16. Has your child's HAT ever been lost for a period of more than a few minutes? If so, how are you ensuring it won't be lost again?
17. Has your child's HAT ever been broken and had to be sent out to be repaired so they were without it for longer than a day?
18. Do you notice any difference when you put your child's HAT on? (For example, they become quiet and listen more, or else start talking more)
19. Have you noticed a difference in your child's response to you calling their name when their HAT is on? (Do they turn more readily? Respond quicker?)

20. Have you noticed any adverse or negative reaction to loud sounds when your child is wearing their HAT? (Startling, crying, running away, etc) If so, please describe what types of sounds the child is reacting to and what the reaction looks like.
21. Is your child able to locate sounds with their HAT on? (turn their head towards the speaker or the source of the sound immediately without having to visually search for the source. This question is not applicable for children with a single hearing aid, a single implant or a BAHA)
22. Is your child able to identify sounds with their HAT on? (For example looking over at the dog when it barks, running to the door when someone rings the bell or knocks, clapping when the microwave beeps because they know their food is ready, saying or signing "phone" when the phone rings, etc)
23. Have you noticed a difference in the distance from which you can communicate with your child and they understand you with their HAT on? (Can they understand you from farther away with their HAT on?)
24. Have you noticed a difference in your child's speech when they are wearing their HAT? (Clearer speech, more frequent babbling, talking, imitating speech sounds or singing more, etc).
25. Are there certain sounds that your child can hear with their HAT that they could not hear otherwise? Please specify. (For example, birds tweeting, water running, etc)
26. How does your child respond to music (Cries, laughs, claps, dances or bobs head in time to music, etc)
27. Has your child ever requested their HAT, either by verbally asking for it or by pointing to it or to their ears? (Children as young as 2 will often request their HAT once they realize they benefit from wearing it).
28. Are there any activities that your child seems to enjoy more when they are wearing their HAT? (Watching TV, playing with a tablet, playing with siblings or friends, having someone read them a book, etc).
29. Have you ever noticed listening fatigue (your child becoming tired after spending time wearing their HAT and listening)?
30. What could make you and your child's experience wearing HAT better?