

SoundRecover: Information for Parents

What is SoundRecover?

It is common for children with hearing loss to have less hearing in the high pitches (i.e. the high frequencies). These high pitched sounds carry important information essential for understanding speech. Often it is not possible to make these sounds loud enough, even with modern hearing instrument technology. The goal of SoundRecover is to help bring the high pitched sounds into the usable hearing range of your child.

The benefits of SoundRecover:

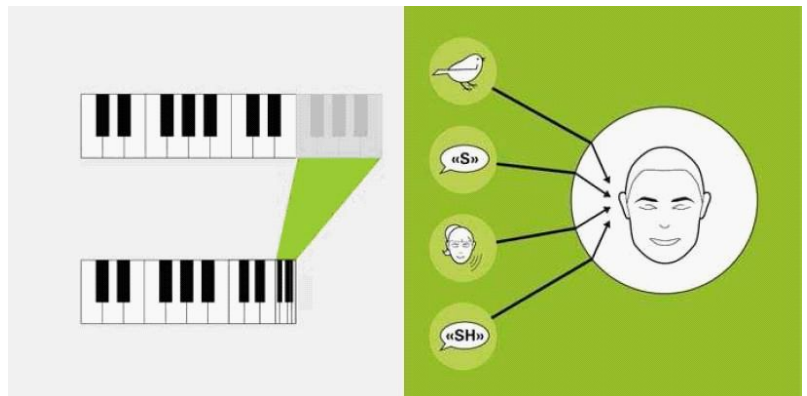
Your child may experience the following when listening through hearing instruments with SoundRecover:

- Improved hearing of certain sounds and better overall speech understanding (most noticeable for high-pitched talkers such as women and children, softly spoken people, or sounds such as the letters "s" or "f")
- Your child's speech production may improve thanks to the fact that more speech sounds are audible
- Improved hearing of certain environmental sounds (e.g. bird songs, microwave beeps, doorbells)

To help explain SoundRecover, we will use an illustration of the piano:

During a hearing test, your child's audiologist tests a range of frequencies, starting at a low pitch (e.g. 250 Hz bass sound) and ending at a high pitch (e.g. 8000 Hz treble sound). You can relate these pitches to a piano keyboard. In addition, high pitched sounds are quieter than low pitched sounds. Your child's audiogram will tell you what pitches he/she is unable to hear.

SoundRecover takes the softer, high pitched sounds that your child is unable to hear, and compresses them to a lower pitched region where your child can hear better (see illustration). SoundRecover gives greater audibility of high pitched speech and everyday sounds.





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Listening to a hearing instrument with SoundRecover:

You will notice during listening checks that hearing instruments with SoundRecover may sound different compared to conventional hearing instruments (e.g. voices may sound lower in pitch). This is a normal result of the special SoundRecover processing and is nothing to worry about. Remember that for your child, this processing means more hearing in areas where little was available before.

Do further adjustments ever need to be made to my child's hearing instrument(s)?

As with all hearing instruments, adjustments may occasionally be needed. If your child reports any of the following, fine tuning changes to SoundRecover may be needed:

- Certain speech sounds cannot be distinguished from one another (e.g. "sh" and "s" when produced by others may have a "lisping" quality)
- Compared to previous amplification, your child has commented that sound quality has decreased for certain speech, music, and/or other sounds
- Certain speech or environmental sounds are bothersome or unnatural sounding for your child

If your child is very young or otherwise unable to provide feedback on the way that the hearing instruments sound, please do not worry. Instead you can keep a diary of how your child reacts to sounds and if you have any concerns, your hearing care professional will be able to advise you.

It is normal for your child to need a period of adjustment to get used to the new processing scheme. SoundRecover can provide your child with access to important speech and environmental sounds otherwise unavailable. This will be a new and exciting experience for your child!