
The autistic child with hyperacusis - a parent's perspective

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- A brief history of Edward
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The shadow of autism & hyperacusis



A brief history of Edward

- Diagnosed with Autism aged 3
- Now aged 13
- Increasing sensitivity to noise
 - Small children
 - Machinery
 - Birds
- Treated by East Cheshire Trust
 - Dr. Lesley Batchelor (Macclesfield)
 - Dr. Josephine Marriage (Cambridge).

Hypersensitivity to sound



- Reluctance to remove hands from ears
- An impediment to education & independence.

Making hands available



- Needs incentives to make hands available

A high tech solution



- Bose noise reduction headphones.

An alternative solution



Industrial ear protectors

- Low cost and robust

BUT STILL

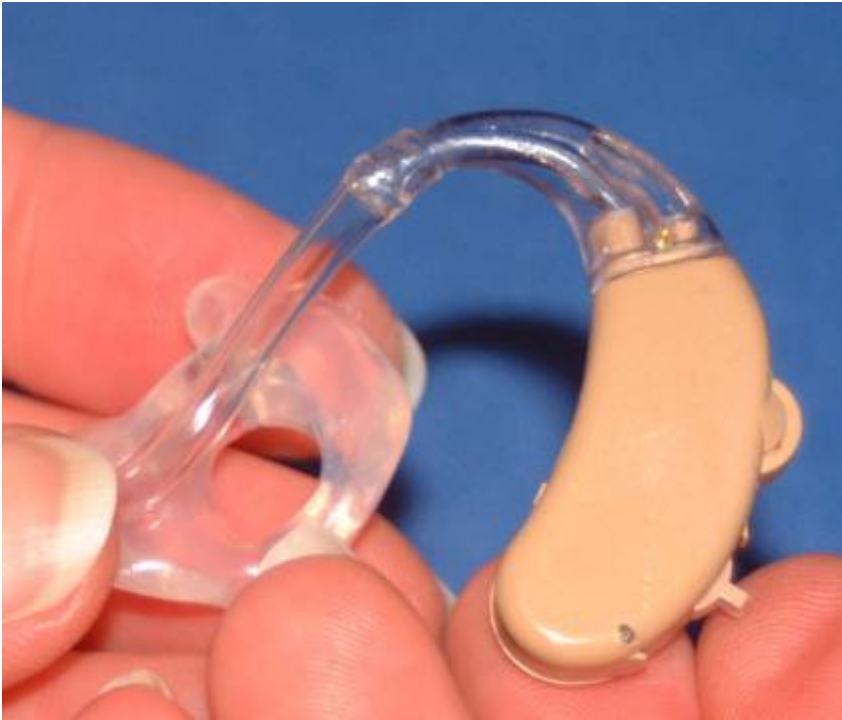
- Bulky
- Obvious
- Limit communication.



The concept of tinnitus maskers

- Successfully masks most distressing sounds
 - Don't block speech
 - Lower weight and volume
 - Not as obtrusive or obvious
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- **BUT STILL**
 - Expensive
 - Delicate.

Tinnitus maskers



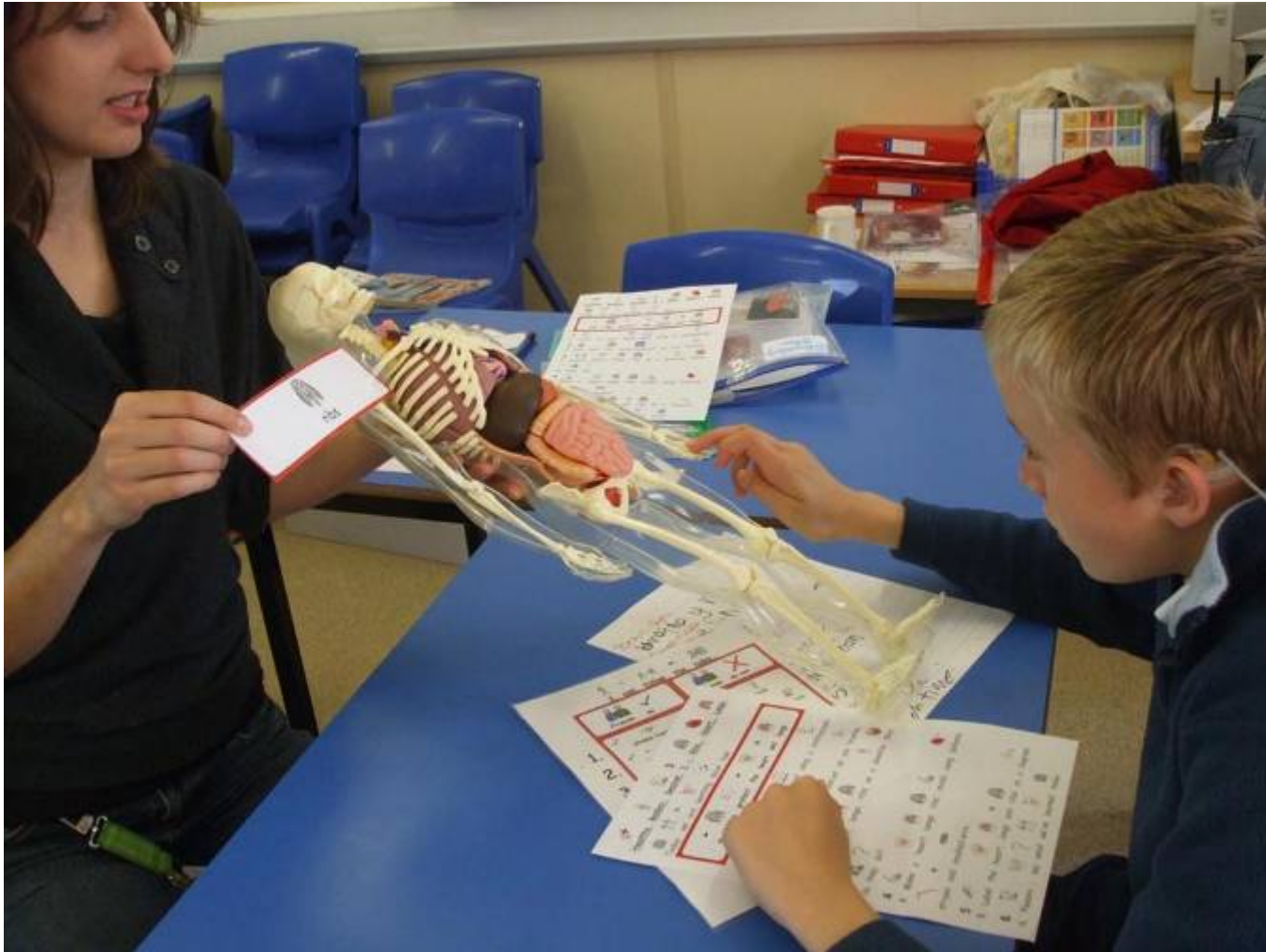
KEY ISSUES

- Battery locks
 - Attach to clothes
 - Tube locks
 - Mould materials
 - Volume covers
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- Accepted by Edward
 - Allow communication
 - Effective

Access areas with machine noise



Access to education



The important things in life!



■ Eating in social settings

Enjoying Life



■ Drumming workshop

Conclusions & acknowledgements

- Conclusions

- Highly effective
- Changed his life for the better
- Could use a more robust design

- Thanks to

- Dr. Lesley Batchelor for Audiology
- Dr. Josephine Marriage for support
- Purbeck View School, Swanage, Dorset.