A Teacher's Guide to Ponto

What is a Bone Anchored Hearing System (BAHS)?

A BAHS, like the Ponto system, is a type of hearing device that sends sound directly to the inner ear using bone conduction. Recipients may use the Ponto system on a softband (fig. 1) or on an implant/abutment that is surgically placed (fig. 2).

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Why might your student need a Ponto BAHS?

BAHS are used for individuals with conductive/mixed hearing losses and individuals with single-sided deafness (SSD).

Conductive Hearing Loss

Conductive or mixed hearing loss results from issues in the middle or outer ear, such as ear infections, problems with middle ear bones, or conditions like microtia/atresia —a malformation of the outer ear or ear canal.

Microtia/Atresia

Single-Sided Deafness (SSD)

In a student with Single-Sided Deafness (SSD), one ear is completely non-functional, while the other may have normal or reduced hearing. The Ponto is placed on the non-functional ear to transmit sound to the better ear. Despite having one functional ear, these students may still face challenges in a classroom setting.

How can I best support my Ponto students?

Besides managing device functionality, including placement and battery changes, educators can enhance the learning experience for students with hearing loss through the following strategies.

- Repeat or rephrase information as needed.
- Speak slowly and clearly at a comfortable volume.
- Employ written instructions or visual cues.
- Maintain good visibility by facing the child, avoiding face or mouth coverage, and ensuring adequate lighting.
- Use an educational microphone like the EduMic.
- Enhance classroom acoustics by closing doors, placing tennis balls on furniture legs, using carpets and wall coverings for sound absorption, and positioning desks away from noise sources.
- Adhere to guidelines in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan, if applicable.

How to use a Ponto Processor

Parts of a Ponto

- If a push button is present and activated it allows for volume and program change.
- The LED light gives status indicators about the processors function.
- The microphone inlets are where sound enters the device.
- The coupling is how the processor attaches to a softband or abutment.
- The battery door is where the battery is inserted. It may be locked, or tamper-proof, for very young children.

Positioning the sound processor

***This is proper softband placement.**

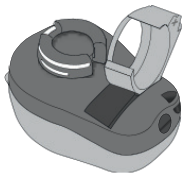
For optimal performance, position the sound processor vertically with the microphone inlets at the bottom, aligned horizontally. Avoid anything touching the sound processor (e.g. the ear, skin, a hat) to prevent feedback (a whistling sound).

If a child is using a softband, it should fit snugly, but comfortably. You should be able to insert two fingers between the softband and the head.

Changing the battery

Your student's Ponto device is automatically turned on when the battery door is closed and a functioning battery is placed inside. To turn the device off, simply open the battery door.

1. Open

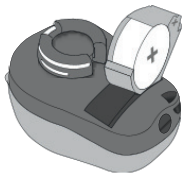


Fully open the battery drawer. Remove the battery.

2. Uncover

Remove the sticky label from the + side of the new battery. Wait 1-2 minutes before placing the battery as it is air-activated.

3. Insert



Insert the new battery into the battery drawer with the + side is facing down.

4. Close

Close the battery drawer. The sound processor will play a jingle.

MultiTool

A MultiTool can be used for battery changes. Use the magnetic end to remove & insert batteries. Use the screwdriver-like end to unlock tamper-proof battery doors.