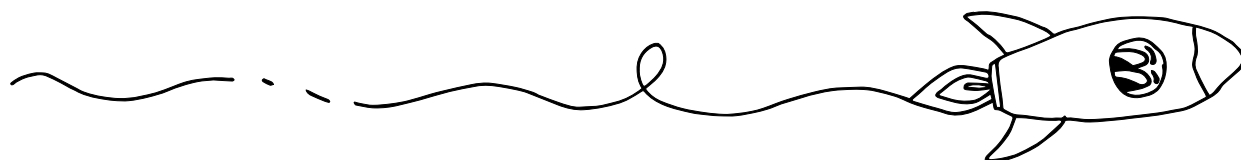


INSPIRE THE FUTURE GENERATION OF INNOVATORS!

**IDEAS
for
EARS**
Powered by MED[®]EL

Challenge your pupils to dream big
and craft innovative solutions for hearing loss.
**Join the IDEASforEARS Children's Invention
Contest with your entire class!**



CLASS PARTICIPATION

Submit entry and consent forms collectively to ideasforears@medel.com. The best participating class will receive a special prize! Please note that for this event, group travel to Innsbruck won't be available as a class reward.

INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION

Each kid submits their idea via the [website](#) and joins as an individual. The kid could then be selected as one of the main prize winners and get the chance to travel to the MED-EL HQ in Innsbruck, Austria.

- Submit ideas before January 17, 2026 (midnight CET).
- Await the announcement of winners (February 12, 2026).

If you have any questions, email us at IDEASforEARS@medel.com

HOW TO BRING IDEASforEARS INTO YOUR CLASSROOM!

**IDEAS
for
EARS**
Powered by MED[®]EL

Connect IDEASforEARS to your own curriculum and to various school subjects! Transform it into an interdisciplinary learning adventure that goes beyond just spotlighting hearing issues. It's all there: creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and entrepreneurial spirit.

MAKE THIS CONNECTION HAPPEN!

BIOLOGY

Explain the anatomy of the ear, how sound waves work, and the physiology of hearing.
Study the biological mechanisms of hearing, including the role of the cochlea and hair cells in the ear.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Teach children about what can make them lose their hearing, the different ways it can happen, and how they can keep their ears safe.
Explore various assistive technologies and devices available for individuals with hearing loss. Encourage students to come up with innovative ideas for new devices.

SCIENCE

Talk about the science of sound and acoustics. Pupils can conduct experiments to understand how different materials change how sound travels.
Explore noise pollution and its effects on our hearing. Discuss how loud sounds can harm our ears and the importance of protective gear.
Explore how sound is measured (decibels) and how sound intensity can impact hearing.

ART & DESIGN

Create a human ear model with items found in the kitchen / garden / made of cardboard / photos.
Encourage pupils to design hearing devices that are easy to use and look good.
Challenge pupils to design clothing or accessories that incorporate hearing aid technology in a stylish way.

MUSIC

Get pupils to explore how music can be changed to include people with hearing challenges. Include touch-based music notation, pictures for music, or systems that provide tactile feedback.

Encourage students to create performances that involve not just hearing, but also other senses like sight and touch. They could add visuals, vibrations, or even scents to their performances to make them more engaging. Does this spark an idea for an IDEASforEARS innovation?

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

Have pupils write a 100-word-story about the challenges faced by people with hearing loss and the impact of their innovation.

Discuss how language and communication vary across cultures and languages, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and accessibility in communication.

Explore different cultures and their ways to communicate verbally / non-verbally.

HISTORY

Discuss the historical development of hearing aids and other assistive devices, highlighting the contributions of inventors and innovators in the field.

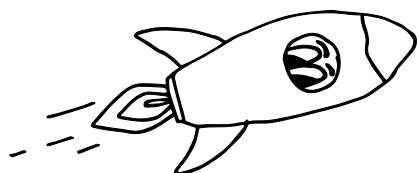
Learn to know about historical figures who were hard of hearing or had hearing loss, such as Ludwig van Beethoven, Francisco Goya or Thomas Edison and how they used innovation to overcome challenges with their hearing loss.

MATHEMATICS

Explore the geometry of sound waves and how they interact with the ear. Calculate the wavelength, frequency, and amplitude of different sounds.

Look at data about hearing loss, like how many people have it, which age groups are more likely to get it, and how well different treatments work.

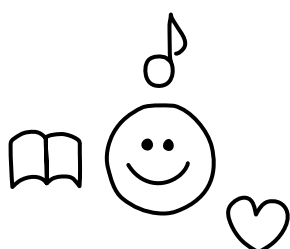
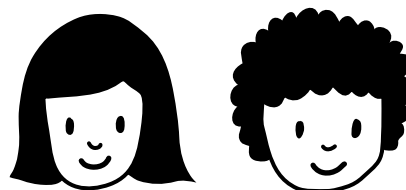
Ask students to gather information about how many people in different age groups or places have hearing difficulties. Analyze the data to calculate percentages, averages, and other relevant statistics.



NEED SOME HELP TO COME UP WITH AN IDEA?

THINK ABOUT A PERSON!

Who do you know with hearing loss
or a hearing implant?

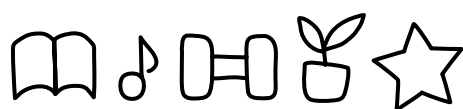
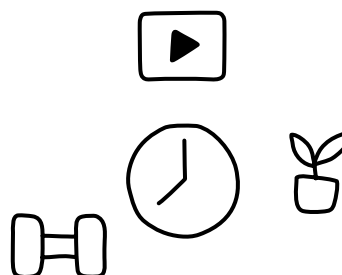


THINK ABOUT A HOBBY!

Does the person with hearing loss
face any challenges while practicing this hobby?

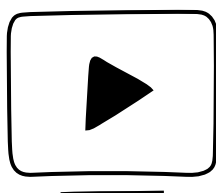
THINK ABOUT DAILY LIFE!

Does the person with hearing loss
face any challenges in daily life?

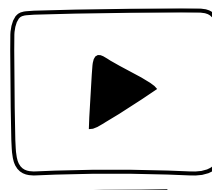


THINK ABOUT A THEME!

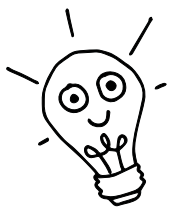
You could choose a topic you're interested in
(e.g., school, sports, environemnt, music)



Watch a [video](#) of our chief juror Geoff.
He is an inventor himself and shares
his top tips to be an inventor.



Watch a [video](#) of our previous
winners about what skills it takes
to be an inventor.



YOUR TIME TO SHINE

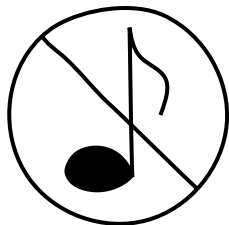
HELPFUL TIPS FOR FILMING

Now it's time to present your invention.
Here's how you can record a great video to make your idea stand out.



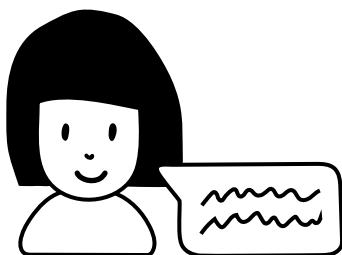
1 ASK SOMEONE FOR HELP

Ask one of your parents or older siblings for help. This will make the filming process much easier!



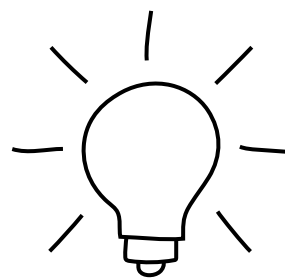
3 CHOOSE A QUIET SPOT

Look for a video location with no background noise such as traffic, airplanes, wind, loud voices, or barking dogs.



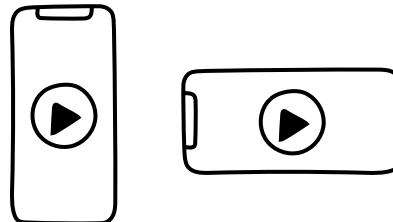
5 PRESENT YOUR IDEA

Now it's your time to shine! Explain your drawing or poster. Share your thoughts behind your invention, how it works, and how it makes the lives of people with hearing loss easier.



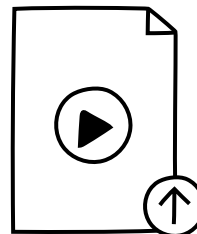
2 FIND A GOOD SOURCE OF LIGHT

Try to find a space near windows/doors or a light that's in front of you.



4 FILM PORTRAIT OR LANDSCAPE VIDEO

Ask your parents to film you at your eye level. They can hold the phone, or place it on a tripod or any flat surface. Both portrait and landscape modes are welcome.



6 SUBMIT YOUR VIDEO

The clip should not be longer than 60 seconds and not bigger than 100 MB. Once you are ready, submit your video on IDEASforEARS.medel.com.

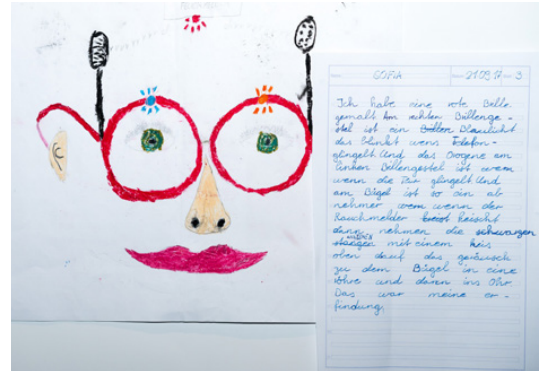


PREVIOUS WINNERS' IDEAS

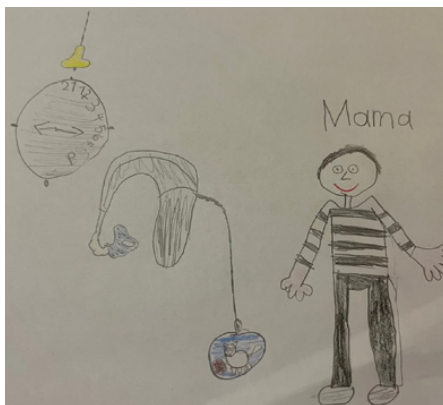
IDEAS for EARS
Powered by MED[®]EL



When losing the processor:
alarm goes off "I am a bionic ear",
GPS helps to locate the processor

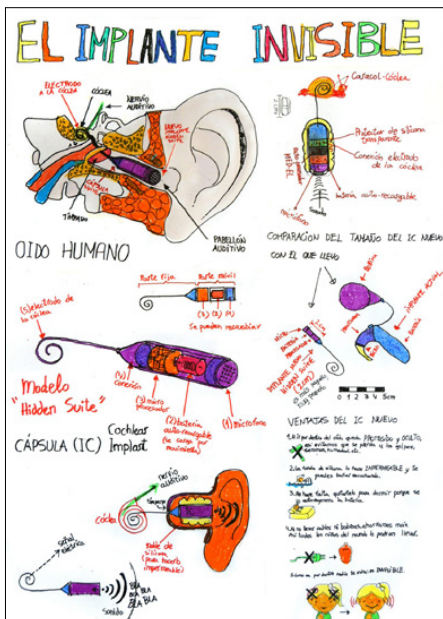
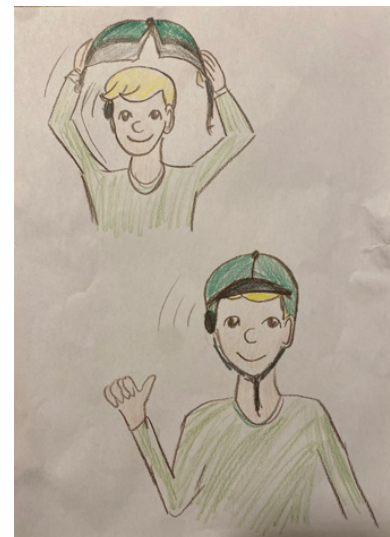


Alarming glasses for fire alarm,
phonecalls, and door bells

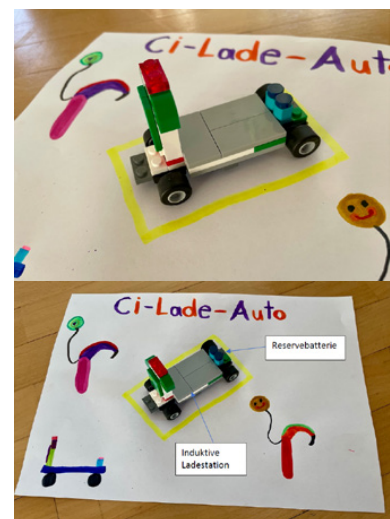


Mommy Alarm
sends a reminder
when battery is
almost empty

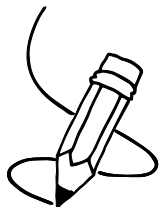
Special sports helmet
for people with a
hearing device



Invisible
audioprocessor



Charging station
for extra batteries



SUBMISSION FORM

**IDEAS
for
EARS**
Powered by **MED[®]EL**

My IDEASforEARS invention is: _____

Tell us about the inspiration behind your invention idea.
Do you have hearing loss or know someone who has?:

Full name of child: _____

Age of child: _____

Full name of parent or guardian: _____

Country: _____

City: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

How did you hear about the IDEASforEARS contest?:

DATA PROTECTION AGREEMENT

☐ I consent to having MED-EL store my submitted information so they can judge my invention idea and contact me if I am a contest winner.

PERMISSION

☐ I have read the contest Terms and Conditions and I have the consent of my parent or guardian to enter the contest. Questions? Contact: IDEASforEARS@medel.com

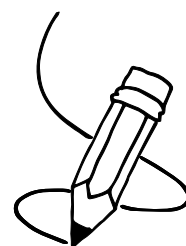
NAME: _____

AGE: _____

MY IDEA: _____

**IDEAS
for
EARS**
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Submit your idea at IDEASforEARS.medel.com



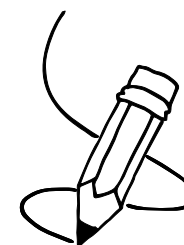
NAME: _____

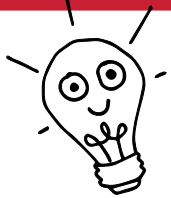
AGE: _____

MY IDEA: _____

IDEAS
for **EARS**
Powered by **MED**®**EL**

Submit your idea at IDEASforEARS.medel.com





**IDEAS
for
EARS**
Powered by MED-EL

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

IDEASforEARS Children's Invention Contest

Entry is open to all children aged between 6-12 years old (during the competition period) residing in participating countries.

Children of employees (and their immediate families) of MED-EL and agencies associated with this competition are ineligible to enter. Immediate family means any of the following: child or step-child (whether natural or by adoption), niece, nephew, brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister or 1st cousin.

Additionally, the following categories of persons are excluded from the competition:

- Any child covered under any federally funded health insurance program including Medicare, Medicaid, Federal Employees' Compensation Act, Black Lung, Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, TRICARE, Veterans Health Care, Public Health Service programs, Indian Health Services, state health care programs receiving federal funding under the Maternal and Child Health Block Grants (Title V), Social Service Block Grants (Title XX), and State Child Health Plan (Title XXI) (except for the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program or vocational rehabilitation programs), who is (or may reasonably be predicted in the future to be) a user of MED-EL products.
- Any child who is an immediate family member of a physician, audiologist or other health care professional, or other person who is in a position to refer or influence the referral or purchase of federally reimbursed health care business to MED-EL.

Children wishing to participate need to obtain parental or legal guardian consent prior to submission. Consent will be documented on the entry form.

Entries must be submitted between 09 November 2025 and 17 January 2026. Entries close at midnight on 17 January 2026. Participants may only enter once. Entries must be submitted via www.ideasforears.medel.com

MED-EL in its sole discretion, will select finalists based on demonstration of originality, creativity, practicality, imagination, innovation and brand appropriateness. The judging criteria is based on an original invention that can improve the quality of life for people with hearing loss.

Entries from the United States will be judged by a panel based at MED-EL Corporation in Durham, NC.

Finalists from each participating country will then be judged by a panel based at MED-EL's headquarters.

Overall global winners (number of winners to be defined based on quality of submissions and number of participants) will be awarded a trip to Innsbruck (=main prize). The trip will take place on the 2nd and 3rd of June 2026 and includes 2 nights stay with breakfast at the NALA hotel in Innsbruck for 1 child & 1 guardian in a standard room, economy travel by plane or train to & from Munich, Vienna, or Innsbruck airport only, airport transfers, potential visa costs, and Innsbruck Welcome Card. Prizes cannot be transferred.

The overall global winner will be announced on or before (depending on availability and suitable times) 12 February 2026 via a global media release. The winners will be notified by phone and/or email before that. If a winner does not respond within 72 hours of being notified, MED-EL reserves the right to determine a new winner. MED-EL's decision is final. The prize cannot be exchanged for cash, credit or service and no exchange communications will be entered into.

Entries and ideas submitted in the competition, whether winning or not, become the exclusive property of MED-EL and will not be acknowledged nor will they be returned. These can also be used for marketing and publicity for MED-EL.

Photographs of the finalists and their work may be posted on any MED-EL channel, which can include MED-EL website, IDEASforEARS website, social media channels, or used in future promotional, marketing or publicity purposes, in any media, without compensation, restriction on use, attribution or liability.

Entrants warrant that the entries submitted for the competition are their original work personally created by them.

The winners will be invited to participate in publicity events and promotions with the media both in online and offline channels. Those who enter agree, to be willing to participate in such activities if they are chosen as a competition winner.

Each entrant agrees that, his or her submission in its entirety or any portion thereof, (including first name, country, age and photo) may be published by MED-EL (print and/or online, social media) and used for other publicity purposes and activities. Please note: this will NOT include entrants' email or home addresses.

By entering the competition participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that the decision of MED-EL is final and binding in all matters relating to this competition.

All submissions are deemed received at the time of receipt by MED-EL and NOT at time of transmission by the entrant. MED-EL records are conclusive as to the time of receipt. Late, lost, stolen, misdirected, illegal, incomplete, illegible, damaged, reproduced, or altered submissions are invalid. MED-EL is not responsible for such submissions nor for any error, technical malfunction, loss, omission, communications delay or failure.

MED-EL reserves the right to vary these terms or to modify, suspend, terminate or cancel the competition at any time without prior notice.

MED-EL accepts no responsibility for any loss, damage, injury or disappointment suffered by any participant (including any guest) resulting from entering the competition and/or by the acceptance and/or participation in any of the prizes.

Find more information on IDEASforEARS.medel.com