



**FIG 18-7** On-the-body hearing aids are convenient for young children, such as this child with severe bilateral hearing loss. Note eye patching for strabismus.

As children grow older, they may be self-conscious about the device. Effort may be made to make the aid inconspicuous, such as styling the hair to cover behind-the-ear or in-the-ear models and encourage the use of attractive frames for glasses with connected hearing aids. Give children responsibility for the care of the device as soon as they are able, because fostering independence is a primary goal of rehabilitation.

### **Nursing Alert**

Stress to parents the importance of storing batteries for hearing aids in a safe location out of reach of children and teaching children not to remove the battery from the hearing aid (or supervising young children when they do so). Battery ingestion requires immediate emergency management.

### **Sensorineural Hearing Loss**

Treatment for sensorineural hearing loss is much less satisfactory. Because the defect is not one of intensity of sound, hearing aids are of less value in this type of defect. The use of **cochlear implants\*** (a surgically implanted prosthetic device) provides a sensation of hearing for individuals who have severe or profound hearing loss