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Parents Talk about Hearing Aids

Read this page to see what parents say about hearing aids.

Click on the links to read the stories below. After you read the stories, [tell us yours](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/contact.jsp) (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/contact.jsp>). And come back soon. We'll be adding more quotes from parents!

Some of the names have been changed to protect the family's privacy:

Christofer deHahn talks about the importance of using hearing aids with very young children:

"If your child is focused on your face when talking, then she is speech reading. This is exactly what my oldest child did that taught us that he wanted to learn to talk. It is a sign that you should seriously consider. If your goal is for her to learn to listen and speak, then you must get her aided right away. It doesn't matter if the aids are a perfect fit audiologically, or the best technology at first, but if this is your goal she needs the input right away. I can't stress that enough. She is missing so much by not being able to hear. My oldest was diagnosed at 9 months and aided at one year of age. My second child was diagnosed at 4 days (because of family history, there was not newborn hearing screening then) and aided (properly) at three months. The difference in their ability to acquire auditory language was staggering. No comparison."



Sarah's mom talks about when her daughter first got a hearing aid:

"She was a really crabby infant. She cried basically from 4 to 8 o'clock every night and she was crying when they went to put her hearing aids on. Then they turned it on and all of a sudden her whole face lit up. Big smile, like stopped crying, became a different child. I wish we had videotaped that moment. It was like completely different."

Larry's mom talks about her son's experience with different hearing aids. Larry has a severe hearing loss and some attention problems.

"We tried the Claro 311s and did not like them at all! They are not at all child-friendly hearing aids, in my opinion, but I realize there are other parents who like them. They require constant monitoring to see what program your child is in, and there is no way to tell this just by looking at the hearing aid. We finally chose the Digifocus II Super Power hearing aids, which just came on the market last fall. These are automatic, in that they sense changes in the environment, and respond automatically. They do a good job of dampening environmental noise.

"Now that Larry is starting to play some sports himself, we feel we will need to invest in the FM boots that match these hearing aids, and use the microlink transmitter we already had. Up until that point, we didn't really need it, but now we really feel he needs one. He gets a lot of input auditorially but he can't hear or follow directions in the middle of a soccer game with all the activity and noise around him. We feel this will actually benefit him more than an interpreter."

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You can find this page online at:

<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/meet/parents/hearingaids.jsp>