

Better Hearing and Speech: Adam's Story

Our son, Adam, was born in 2006. We never expected any complications with his health as there were no complications during the pregnancy, nor do we have any genetic conditions in our family. Upon receiving the news that Adam had failed his newborn hearing screen, my husband and I decided to not be too concerned. We were told not to worry, that Adam probably had fluid in his ears and that he would pass next time. The next two tests that he had in the hospital were failed as well, so we were off to the pediatric ear nose and throat specialist (ENT) and audiologist. Our definitive diagnosis that Adam was profoundly deaf came to us from this group of medical professionals on Halloween, 2006.

From that day forward, our family has been dedicated to helping Adam hear and speak with the use of bilateral cochlear implants. Yes, we were surprised by the diagnosis. Yes, we had to face decisions that not many expect to face. Yes, there are challenges with having a child with hearing loss. As a family we decided to accept these challenges and face them head on by educating ourselves on hearing loss, advances in cochlear implant technology and accessories for the devices, the benefits of specialized speech and language therapies, the oral language program at Desert Voices, and how to navigate the world of special education in public schools.

We are happy to report that Adam is currently in kindergarten and thriving! He is academically above kindergarten standards, has beautiful language skills and has made many new friends this year in a typical, social classroom environment. Adam has accomplished all of this because we were lucky enough to find out right away that he was born deaf. The newborn hearing screening results were surprising, but they allowed us to start making decisions for Adam and the life he has today. We couldn't be more proud of all that our son has accomplished!

