



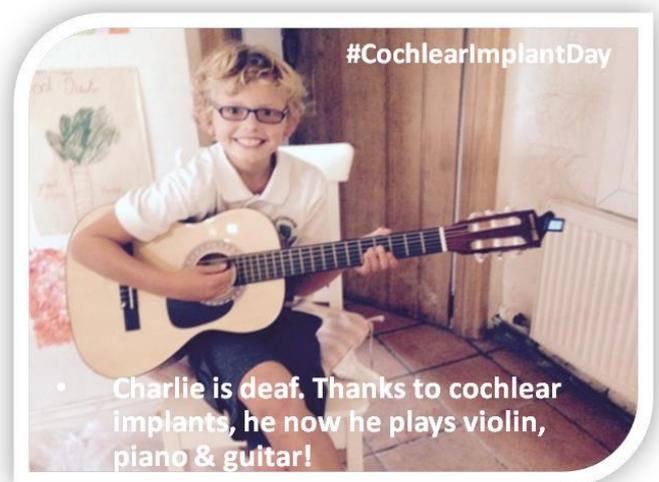
## Cochlear Implant Day – 25 February

Max was born deaf and had bilateral cochlear implants just after his first birthday. He is now 21 months and already has over five spoken words. His parents told us: "The technology and support we have received have enabled us to be optimistic about his future and other spoken languages are now a possibility." Please share this story and the hashtag #CochlearImplantDay to raise awareness of hearing loss and cochlear implantation



Here's a heartwarming story of a little boy called Charlie, who received bilateral implants when he was 3½ years old. "Diagnosis of Usher syndrome the following year made us incredibly thankful for the implants" say Charlie's parents. " We are professional musicians and Charlie, now nine, has grown up surrounded by music. He loves all sports and plays violin, piano, guitar and even has his own string quartet!"

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Here's the story of sisters Jessica and Penny, who both had bilateral cochlear implants around their first birthday. Their mum says that their horizons have broadened and their ears have been opened to infinite possibilities previously unimaginable. "It's truly amazing to see them dancing, enjoying music and singing along. Sometimes we actually forget they were born deaf!"

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Isabella was born deaf. Her parents explain: "We always wanted our children to be independent and our biggest fear when Izzy was born deaf, was, how could she be? Since having cochlear implants Izzy has gone from strength to strength with her speech, BSL, and social skills and is looking forward to joining mainstream school in September."

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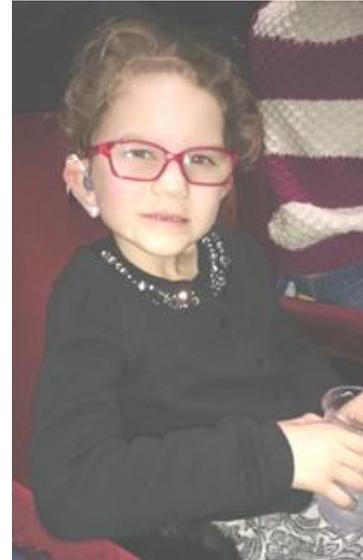
Lydia, now nine years old, was bilaterally implanted eight years ago and her family now sometimes forget she is deaf! She attends mainstream school and is one of the highest achievers in her class. She is confident and determined and her 'ears' have enabled her to fly.

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Ruby is nearly eight years old and has bilateral cochlear implants. Her mum says: "Cochlear implants have given my daughter a life without boundaries and helped her to become a happy, confident little girl with bags of personality and a great social life. Ruby enjoys her implants that make friendships with hearing peers easier and says she is lucky to be able to hear."

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Grace was implanted when she was 2½ years old, and is now at university. She says: "I enjoy silence in my deaf world, but implants have surpassed all expectations and enable me to live comfortably in the hearing world, both socially and emotionally, have enabled me to develop fluent spoken language, attend mainstream school and enjoy music."

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Noah was born into a hearing family. His parents say: "Our son was deafened by pneumococcal meningitis at 16 months. Four months later he received two cochlear implants, without which learning to listen and speak would have been impossible. He is now 11, confident and chatty. Cochlear implants allowed him to re-contact with the hearing world."

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George was born deaf and implanted when he was 12 months old. Initially progress was slow, but with appropriate support he has caught up since, has clear speech, lots of friends and is able to participate in anything just like his hearing peers. His parents say they are so grateful for his cochlear implants!

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Born profoundly deaf, Bradley had a first cochlear implant at 3½ and a bilateral at 10. He hears well, speaks clearly, attended mainstream school and now studies physiotherapy at university. He could not have achieved this without his implants. He lives life to the full and loves hearing.

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Cochlear implants can be life changing for children, and transformed Benedict's life. Born profoundly deaf with auditory neuropathy not diagnosed until nearly two he was first implanted at 3½. Listening in noise is difficult and tiring, but he is a confident bilaterally implanted teenager, proud of who he is, thriving at specialist school enjoying French and science.

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