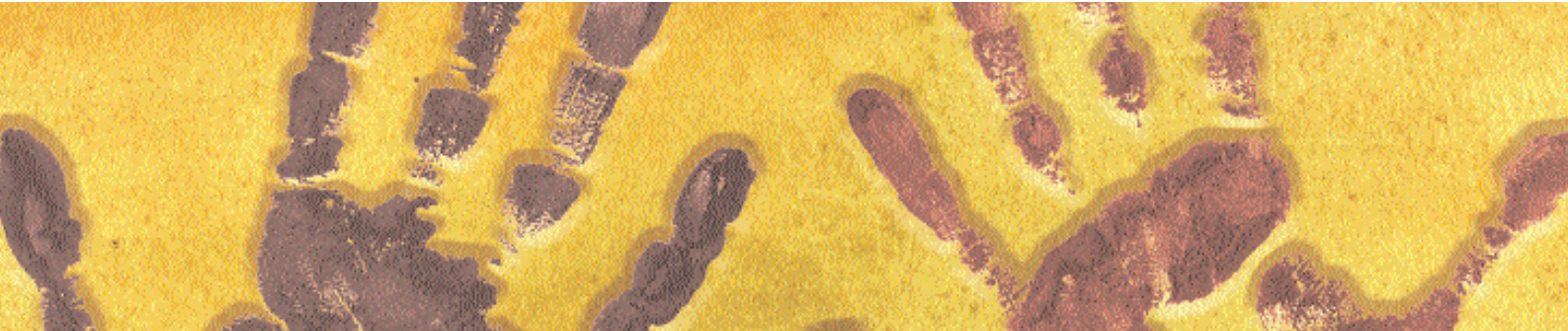


Parent's stories:

My two boys



I have two boys. They are both deaf/hearing impaired. They are currently five and three years old. I have known about their deafness for two years. There is no family history of any deafness in our families. We still have no answer as to why they are both deaf.

When I was told they had nerve deafness, I didn't understand how permanent it would be. I thought it would be something mild that could be fixed. When the audiologist told me they needed hearing aids, I was shocked and devastated. This was going to be a life-time issue! I felt so guilty, like it must have been my fault. I had no idea what the future would bring.

Now, two years on, I couldn't be happier. I am so proud of both my boys. They have advanced in leaps and bounds since the initial discovery of their deafness. These advancements could only be attributed to the help and support I received from my family, but more importantly from an early intervention centre. They helped me understand what was happening, and what to expect in the future. They visited and contacted me regularly. Early intervention has been the most amazing support, I could never have imagined going through these times without their help.

Now my boys have a very normal life. They are very positive and happy kids. I have met other parents with deaf children, through deaf playgroups and kindergarten. My husband and I have learnt how to sign, by our own choice. I feel like this is the most awesome thing anyone could ever teach their child. Communication is essential, whether it's signing or speaking, as long as your child is happy and can express themselves.

But the most important thing I could offer as a mother's advice: Roll with the punches; deal with the blows as best you can. Stay positive and supportive of each other and your family. Everything will be fine!

Authorised by the Victorian Government,
50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.
Printed on sustainable paper by
Imapct Printing, 69-79 Fallon St, Brunswick 3056
December 2006