Leo's Story

Meet Leo Ellis, a happy and energetic child who has been with Telethon Speech & Hearing since 2017. Enrolled in our Chatterbox Program, mum Natalie first had concerns about her son's hearing when he was around nine months of age.

"Leo would never startle to loud noises like other babies his age," Natalie said.

"He was very much in his own world and not too interested (or not noticing) what was going on around him."

With no family history or experience with hearing loss, Leo's parents were very shocked and confused by his diagnosis. Both parents worried how Leo's life would look, especially about school, his ability to speak clearly and keeping up with other children in class.

One year since joining the Chatterbox Program at TSH however, Leo's parents have noticed a dramatic improvement in their son's development both at school and within their family home.

LEO ELLIS, AGE 3
CHATTERBOX PROGRAM

"Leo is a completely different child since starting TSH," Natalie said.

"When we first started, Leo didn't know how to listen and couldn't understand much at all, so his behaviour was a real struggle. One year on and his listening skills are amazing. His speech is going from strength to strength and he is following instructions and joining in with his peers, which is really lovely to see."

"Leo has learnt to play and interact with his big sister Mia much better and they are now playing together beautifully."

From being in denial and scared of what the future held for their son, parents Natalie and Ray are now confident Leo will continue going from strength to strength with the help of TSH.

"For us, this journey has been the most emotional, stressful and complicated journey we have ever been on," Natalie said.

"But since we have joined TSH a weight has been lifted off my shoulders knowing that we are getting the best help available."

"Knowing that each department [at TSH] is working together closely to help us achieve the goals we've set for Leo, really makes us feel like we are getting the best possible help for him."