

# Lucy's Story



Lucy's hearing journey began during a newborn hearing screening at hospital, where she received a "referred" result at just four days old.

"We had absolutely no idea what Lucy's results meant [but were told] she more than likely just had fluid in her ears, and this would sort itself out," recalled Lucy's mum, Anna.

Unfortunately, the fluid did not clear and Lucy was diagnosed with moderate sensorineural hearing loss in her left ear.

At three months old, Lucy was fitted with a hearing aid (affectionately called her "pink bling") and began attending TSH's Chatterbox program for early intervention support. Here, she began speech therapy, attended playgroups and formed lasting friendships with other children with hearing loss.



As Lucy grew, hearing in her left ear worsened to the point that she was now profoundly deaf, and led to her first cochlear implant at age two. Her "switch-on" was an emotional day for the entire family.

Lucy and her family continued with speech therapy, playgroups, audiology support sessions, and programming appointments at TSH to fine-tune her cochlear implant. The family found these days tough, but worthwhile seeing Lucy's continued development.

In 2020, Lucy started school with the support of TSH's Outpost program and received assistance in the areas of language, speech, auditory and academic, based on her individual needs.

Despite thriving at school, Lucy continued to experience burst ear drums and infections that eventually led to her having a rare surgery to remove her cochlear implant because of a cholesteatoma (abnormal skin growth).

Six months later, Lucy was re-implanted with another cochlear implant and had her second successful switch-on at TSH.

Reflecting on the ups and downs, Anna shared, "Whilst hearing in multiple ways can be exhausting and sometimes loud for Lucy, we know that we made the right decision for our daughter and family."

"Lucy loves wearing her processor (especially her Harry Potter skins!) and is considered no differently by her friends and teachers at school."

"Since receiving her second cochlear implant she has not looked back!"

***With a cochlear implant and the support of early intervention programs at TSH, Lucy engages fully in life's adventures. Her journey is a testament to the life-changing support celebrated during Loud Shirt Day, ensuring children with hearing loss feel empowered to reach their full potential.***