

What does a diagnosis of hearing loss mean for my baby's future?

After a diagnosis, it's natural for parents to wonder what this means for their child.

They may think:

- Will my child be able to make friends? Have a job? Develop relationships? Drive a car? Go to school? Be happy?
- What will my child be able to do?

In the weeks, months and years ahead, you will discover that your baby is able to do all those things that you dreamed about before he or she was born: smile at you, talk to you, go to school, play sport, find a job and develop relationships. Life won't always be easy, but with love and help from you your child will grow up to lead a happy, fulfilled and independent life.¹

Here is what some parents have to say

*"Alex does everything she would have done without a hearing loss – music class, gym class, swimming lessons, etc. She just happens to wear hearing aids. She will never stop being my perfect beautiful daughter."*²

*"My son can do anything – go to work, drive a car, develop relationships, have children. Just a normal life! When he was diagnosed we had all these fears. Would everything be normal? Other than using sign language to communicate, our lives are just the same as everyone else's"*³

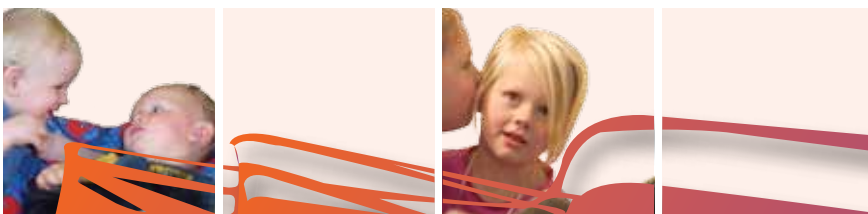
*"My daughter goes to Brownies every week without any extra help. She's a sixer now and is going on to guides in September. I could never have imagined that could possibly happen when she was first diagnosed. She's just a very happy all-round person."*⁴

Deaf children go to school, play sport, go to clubs after school and many go to college or university or go straight into work.

Children with a hearing loss can be:

- creative
- musical
- athletic
- academic
- loud
- and mischievous... just like any other child!

¹ Aussie deaf kids, in *Building blocks: A parent guide for families whose baby has been diagnosed with a hearing loss* (www.aussiedeafkids.com)
² Australian Hearing, 2005, *Choices*, Chatswood, NSW.
³ The National Deaf Children's Society, 2002, *Your baby has a hearing loss*, London.
⁴ *ibid.*



Every child, every opportunity

