

## Parent's stories

## Ethan's story

"Our youngest son Ethan was diagnosed as profoundly deaf at fiveand-a-half months old and received a cochlear implant at seven-and-ahalf months.

Initially, it was a bad dream. I had never met a deaf person before and suddenly we were parenting one!
We had no idea what to do or where to turn.

Fortunately, we were introduced to staff at an Early Childhood Intervention program for hearing impaired children who have been an important part of our lives ever since. Ethan has enjoyed the program and received speech therapy, while we have been given expert advice, counselling and emotional support.

Ethan is now a happy and welladjusted four-year-old. His speech is age appropriate and he has just started at a mainstream kindergarten. He is communicating well with his peers and he absolutely loves it! This is an outcome that we never dreamed possible. Ethan now has every opportunity to achieve his full potential and is an inspiration to all who know him.

I never believed in miracles before but with the benefit of this amazing technology and the support we have received from the Early Childhood Intervention program, we now see one every day."

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