



Speaking from Experience Young people & Hearing Impairment

Transcript for chapter 4 of 7: Challenges

Cynthia 18, diagnosed as an infant: Well, my grades were good. But some were bad.

Max 10, diagnosed as an infant: When it's noisy, it's hard to hear.

Khaled 12, diagnosed as an infant: It's hard to listen to only the teacher.

Cynthia: I find it hard to hear because they talk slow, like, real low.

Tamara 10, diagnosed age 1: Whenever it's noisy, you know like, something that is noisy, I just want to turn it off so that it doesn't get louder and louder. Still, I can still hear a little bit people chatting. It depends how many people are there.

Khaled: I understand when they're speaking, but sometimes the person is speaking too fast.

Cynthia: They don't like repeating themselves, so, yeah...

Khaled: It's easy to sign with my friend, but it's a little bit harder to speak with my other friends.

Cynthia: I was too ashamed to put my hand up and ask the teacher what they said, to repeat it, and for help. Because, I thought the kids would have laughed at me, and yeah. Start laughing and teasing me, or whatever. Yeah. So that's why I just left it and pretended I heard what they said.

Georgia 10, diagnosed age 4: I have to remember to keep my micro-links on all day, until after school. I have to remember to be careful when I take my jumper off. Because the last time I took my jumper off without being careful, I lost one of them.

Cynthia: When I started high school, that's when the kids were all teasing me. Calling me names, they'd just take my hearing aids and run off with them and throw them in the bin. It makes me upset, and I would just go and cry to myself.

Khaled: I would just ignore them and then I would move away from them.

Tamara: Well, I would normally say, "Stop" once. But they just keep going. Not always keep going, but sometimes. Mostly they do it once. Sometimes I don't say stop I just do this [sighs].

Khaled: Sometimes I say, "Stop teasing me", and they keep teasing me. So, I straight away ask my dad, and my dad will tell them.

Tamara:

For my wish, I want to be a little bit alright. Like, not to be deaf, but to hear better. So that it's easier to understand, and easier to know what to do, if I wasn't deaf... but I am.