



## Speaking from Experience Young people & Hearing Impairment

### Transcript for chapter 2 of 7: Hearing aids & cochlear implants

**Georgia 10, diagnosed age 4:** I've had my hearing aids for six years.

**Khaled 12, diagnosed as an infant:** I was seven years old when I got my hearing aid.

**Tamara 10, diagnosed age 1:** I was one year old when I started wearing my hearing aids. When I started wearing my implant, my cochlear, I started when I was nearly two years old.

**Max 10, diagnosed as an infant:** I've been wearing hearing aids since I was a baby.

**Tyson 13, diagnosed age 3:** I've been wearing hearing aids for about 10 years.

**Cynthia 18, diagnosed as an infant:** I got my hearing aid about 10 years ago, but I don't wear it because I'm ashamed of wearing it.

**Georgia:** I kept forgetting to put them on and then I couldn't hear and then mum would growl at me because I didn't put them on. I'd have to go back to my room and put them on. I'd still need to use my mum's help to put them on, because it was quite hard when I was that little.

**Cynthia:** I felt different, wearing my hearing aids around the other kids. I felt like I didn't belong with them. That's why I didn't want to wear my hearing aid.

**Khaled:** Every day I put my hearing aids in. If you don't put on your hearing aids, you can't hear the teacher.

**Tamara:** My cochlear implant is easier for me, it makes it easier to speak properly. And my voice too, you know, because I'm deaf sometimes I speak loud or soft. Like, "mummy". Something like that. I want to get to medium, so that it's easier for people to understand me more.

**Cynthia:** I'm starting to wear it. You know, it's the first time I'm wearing my hearing aid today.

**Georgia:** I could hardly hear when I don't have my hearing aids in. Normally, I can hear. So it's a big difference then.

**Cynthia:** I can hear clearly... I can hear a bit loud now.

**Tyson:** I don't really wear my hearing aids when I'm playing sports or when I'm going to sleep or in the shower and all those types of things.

**Max:** I can't wear the hearing aids in the water, otherwise they won't work sometimes.

**Tamara:** You don't go out when it's very rainy. You can't go out, or else you'll damage your implant. Only less, like spitting or cloudy, you can go. When it spits, it's okay.



**Max:** I put hearing aids on in the morning and at night time I put them off and I put them on the bench.

**Georgia:** I have to put them off every time I go through the water, and I like going in water. I also have to take them out if it's really noisy. If I go to a dance concert that's really, really noisy.

**Max:** It's good to teach your child to put them somewhere safe, so you don't lose them.

**Khaled:** From about nine and 10, I've looked after my hearing aid.

**Max:** I like to take care of my hearing aids myself.

**Tyson:** Most of the time it's easy for my because I've had them for so long, I don't really remember what it's like not to have them. So, I just think, oh well, I've got them, I might as well deal with them.

**Cynthia:** It's good to wear your hearing aids, so that you can hear what other people are saying. So that you don't have to say, 'What? What?' all the time.

**Georgia:** I feel like I've always got someone by my side, helping. Even though it's a mechanical thing.