

Deaf
Children
Australia.

FLYING
COL
OURS.
YOUR CHILD.
YOUR JOURNEY.

introducing flying colours,
proudly brought to you by
Deaf Children Australia.



*How can I help my child
accept their hearing loss
and not feel different to
their peers?*

“ I ... became Australia’s first deaf actor with a cochlear implant on our national screens. This has been the proudest moment of my life and I hope I get to stay in this industry for the rest of my life and push for diversity in this industry.”

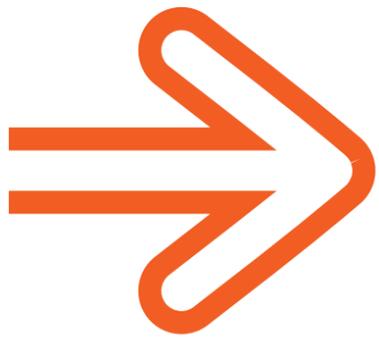
NATHAN BORG, PROFOUNDLY DEAF ACTOR

Read more of Nathan’s story on the Flying Colours website:

www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/my-story-my-career-path-nathan-borg/

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It's only natural for parents to wonder whether their child will accept who they are and be accepted by others. This concern may be amplified if your child is deaf or hard of hearing (DHH).

DHH kids are just like other kids – each one is unique. There are lots of things you can do to help your child come to terms with their hearing loss, build healthy relationships, and know they are valued by their family, peers and community.

OVER

12,000

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN

Over 12,000 Australian children have a significant hearing impairment and one child on average is diagnosed with hearing loss every day.



I highly value my right to make my own choices, make my own mistakes, be independent, walk my own path, learn and grow at my own pace and be self-governed. The right to make my own choices was and is not always a given and I have been lucky to have a mother who fought for this when I was younger and which taught me to do the same.”

MELONIE HARPHAM, PROFOUNDLY DEAF SIGN FOR WORK EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANT

Read more of Melonie’s story on the Flying Colours website:

www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/my-story-my-career-path-melonie-harpham/

show them how it can be done

Your child is one of thousands of Australian children and young people living with hearing loss.

DHH people have lives, interests, experiences and careers that are as diverse, rich and fulfilling as human lives can be.

Seeing how DHH people have forged their own paths can encourage your child to accept their hearing loss and feel positive about the future.

Flying Colours has stories about growing up deaf, families with experience navigating life with a DHH child, and some different career paths DHH people have pursued. See Deaf Children Australia for more stories of DHH kids.



encourage them to try new things



Kids learn about the world and who they are through play and exploration. Encouraging your child to try different things can help them discover what they enjoy and what they are good at.

This can help them to build on their strengths and support development of confidence and self-esteem. Learning to tackle difficult situations is also key to building character, so it's important to support them to persevere with hard

“ Give the child the chance to try as many new things as possible, my passion for competitive swimming clicked at age 10, so it will take time for the child to find his/her passion and make sure they're having fun!”

NICHOLAS LAYTON, PROFOUNDLY DEAF STUDENT AND ATHLETE

Read more of Nicholas's story on the Flying Colours website:

www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/my-story-growing-up-deaf-nicholas-layton/

join a community

Whether your child chooses to identify as Deaf or not, it's helpful to be part of a community with lived experience of deafness. Families tell us it helps them immensely to meet other people who understand what they are going through.

At Deaf Children Australia, we have plenty of ways you can connect with others on a journey with a DHH child. Find free linkups, online groups, events, and more at:

FLYING COLOURS:

www.flyingcolours.org.au/link-up/

DEAF CHILDREN AUSTRALIA PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM:

www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/parent-mentor-program/

DEAF CHILDREN AUSTRALIA YOUTH ACTION GROUP:

www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/youth-action-group/

other programs

DEAF CHILDREN AUSTRALIA HAS A RANGE OF PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT DHH KIDS TO DISCOVER THEIR INTERESTS, BUILD FRIENDSHIPS AND THRIVE.

PUGGLES SWIM

This nationally endorsed learn to swim program supports the communication needs of DHH children:

www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/about-puggles-swim/

THE PEN PALS PROJECT

This gives DHH young people aged 8 to 18 the chance to make new friends on the opposite side of the globe:

www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/pen-pals/

ART EXHIBITION

Which gives DHH young people aged 8 to 23 years an opportunity to explore and showcase their creativity:

www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/art-competition/

BLUEPRINT

Blueprint provides free resources for families and clubs to support DHH kids to participate in mainstream clubs, groups and activities:

www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/blueprint/

what is flying colours?

Flying Colours is an Australian-first website designed to support parents raising a child with a hearing loss and fully funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency.

SOLVING A PROBLEM.

The overwhelming majority of D/HOH children are born to hearing parents. More often than not these parents have no experience of deafness and are suddenly faced with the complexities of raising a child with a hearing loss.

After the diagnosis, parents are often overwhelmed not only the diagnosis but the wave of medical appointments, decisions and information that they have to digest – all while raising a newborn.

WHY WE CREATED IT.

Although there is endless information available on deafness, we were aware that the parents were often overwhelmed with the quantity of advice and information available.

We wanted to provide an unbiased, curated place for parents who were starting their journey of raising a child with a hearing loss.

what can be found on *Flying Colours*?

Everything that we thought would help including:

All about deafness. Find out about deafness from parents with a lived experience, young working adults and our Parent Mentors.

Research. Snappy plain English summaries of relevant research.

Social Opportunities. Links to help you navigate your day - meet our Parent Mentors, check out Facebook groups, social groups and more here

Service Finder. An Australia-wide clickable map with relevant professionals and service providers.

Stories. Stories and videos of parents who are raising a children with a hearing loss.



*thank
you*

deafchildrenaustralia.org.au