

Deaf
Children
Australia.

FLYING COL OURS.

YOUR CHILD.
YOUR JOURNEY.

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



*How will my
extended family
learn to be deaf
aware?*

“Being the sibling to a child with a disability, Caydence has had to learn to navigate and accept her role in this. It also comes back to us helping guide her through that ... It's strengthened us as a family. I wouldn't change any of it.”

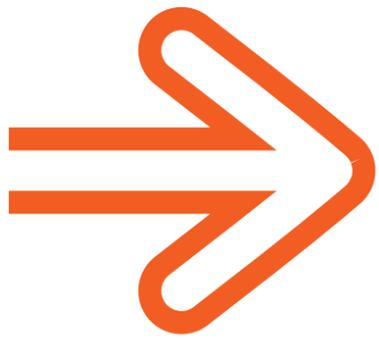
CHRISTINE, MUM TO CAYDENCE AND CODY, WHO HAS A BILATERAL SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS

Discover more of Christine's story in this video from Flying Colours:
www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/christine-my-family-s-journey/

Deaf
Children
Australia.

FLYING
COLOURS.

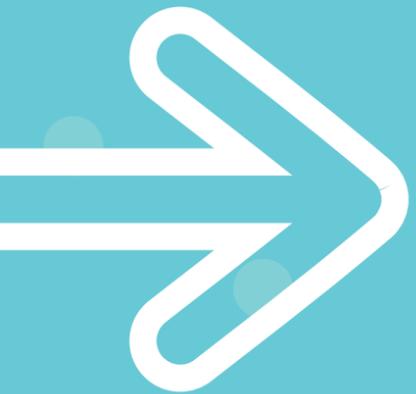
Discovering that your child is deaf or hard of hearing (DHH) will affect you, and also your other children and extended family members.



People may have various reactions to the news and experience a wide range of emotions in the days, weeks and months afterwards. Feelings like confusion, sadness, worry and jealousy are common.

Part of adjusting to your new normal will involve working together with your wider family to adjust and become more deaf aware – which simply means understanding more about deafness and how to help your DHH child thrive.

explaining the news



You might be wondering how to tell others about the diagnosis when you're still grappling with it yourself. Here are some ideas that may help.

- Pick a way that works for you – you'll probably want to tell your other children about the diagnosis in person but could let extended family know by phone or text, for example.
- Use books, games and online resources to aid understanding – the resources at Flying Colours are designed especially for this purpose.
- Be open and honest – discussing your child's diagnosis in a straightforward way is usually best, especially with people who are not familiar with deafness.
- Learn more about how to tell people your child is deaf.

3-6

CHILDREN
IN EVERY THOUSAND

*In Australia, three
to six children in
every thousand
have some degree
of hearing loss.*

building communication

Babies and children need plenty of family interaction to build the communication, social and emotional skills they'll need throughout life

Deaf children and families can choose many different ways to communicate, and the whole family can adapt or learn new communication strategies.

Your family can start building deaf-friendly communication skills by:

looking at the child when you speak

responding when they interact with you (eg by smiling, babbling, or reaching out)

creating a good listening environment

using lots of non-verbal communication, such as hand gestures and facial expressions.

Learn more about early signing and tips for good communication at home

supporting siblings

Growing up with siblings has ups and downs in any family. But siblings of a deaf child may experience additional challenges. For example, they might feel jealous of the attention the DHH child needs, or a sense of responsibility for them.

Some ways you can support your other children include:

giving them a chance to express their feelings

being patient and understanding - it takes time to adjust to the changes

encouraging them to learn more about deafness

taking them to events and activities for deaf children and their siblings

setting aside special time for each child as regularly as you can.

Learn more ways to become a deaf-friendly family.



Deafness is not an intellectual disability. Some deaf people do not believe they have a disability at all.

I'm extremely proud of my Hard of hearing identity, and probably would not be the mentally strong and confident person I am today without going through my hearing loss journey.”

LACHLAN JOHNSON

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

www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/my-story-growing-up-deaf-lachlan-johnson

Deaf
Children
Australia.

FLYING
COLOURS.

Here are some other ways to strengthen your family's deaf awareness.

Learn as much as you can about deafness.

Join online communities and forums for DHH kids and families.

Take part in events and activities for DHH kids and families.

Take part in our free Parent Mentor Program.

other helpful resources

OUR WEBSITES HAVE LOTS MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

WAYS TO BECOME DEAF AWARE

www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Become-more-deaf-aware-1.pdf

COMMUNICATING WITH DEAF PEOPLE

www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Tips-for-communicating-1.pdf

RAISING A DHH CHILD

www.flyingcolours.org.au/all-about-deafness/

WHAT CAUSES DEAFNESS

www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/causes-of-deafness-a-summary/

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT DEAFNESS

www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/fact-checks/

DEAFNESS MYTHS AND TRUTHS

www.flyingcolours.org.au/articles/15-myths-and-15-busters

ADDITIONAL SLIDES

Background to Flying Colours, get in touch etc as per other Ziplines.

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