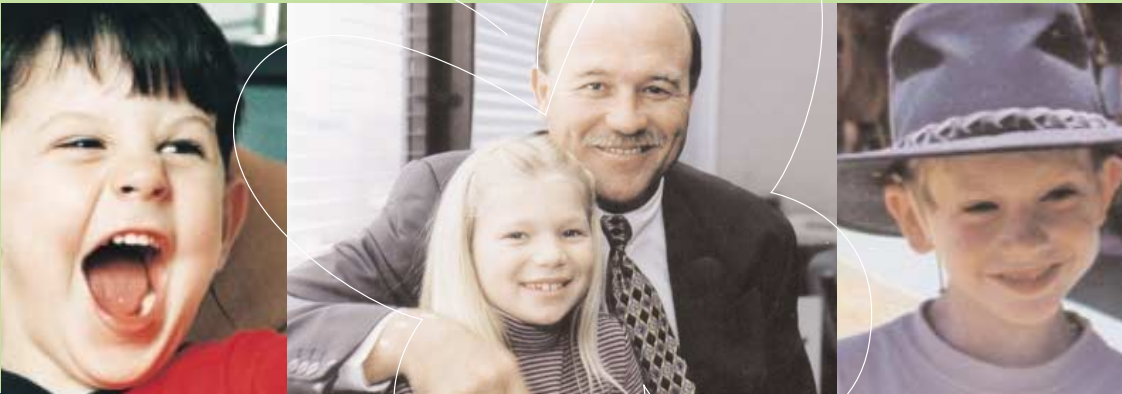




hopes, challenges children & butterflies

A handbook for **parents** and **friends** of the **Hear and Say Centre for Deaf Children**



hopes, challenges, **children** & butterflies

Hopes, Challenges, Children and Butterflies is a collection of the experiences and reflections of families from the Hear and Say Centre. The ideas, information, images and stories contained in this book have been provided and collected by the parents of children attending the Centre. They are shared with the wish that they may bring some comfort, understanding and hope to others.

This booklet would not have been possible without the assistance of a dedicated group of mothers whose children have attended the

Centre. They donated their time to help with the coordination of this project.

Special thanks to: Stella Anderson, Kate Batch, Sarah Douglass and Tina Worland

Also, special thanks to: Joan Newton, Executive Officer/Teacher of the Deaf of the Hear and Say Centre, and ENERGEX Limited, a sponsor of the Hear and Say Centre as well as the coordinator and publisher of Hopes, Challenges, Children and Butterflies.



From left: Sarah Douglass, Kate Batch, Stella Anderson and Tina Worland

About the Hear and Say Centre

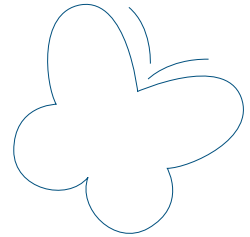
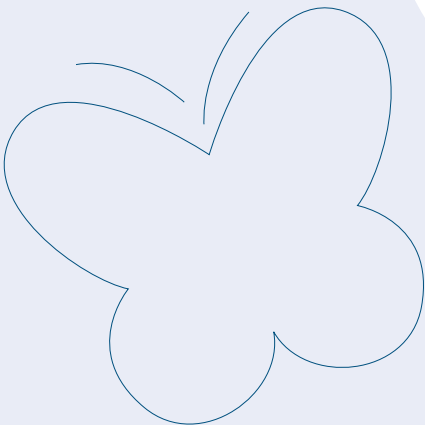
The Hear and Say Centre was established as a charity in July 1992 by speech pathologist Dimity Dornan to provide Queensland's first private early intervention centre using auditory verbal therapy for deaf Queensland children.

In 1996 the Centre established Queensland's first fully integrated and specialised Children's Cochlear Implant Program.

The Centre provides a warm, family atmosphere where teachers/therapists work with hearing-impaired children and their parents as a team, using auditory verbal therapy to teach them to listen and understand what they hear and speak.

The Centre adopted the butterfly logo because butterflies have no hearing. They are also beautiful, colourful and gentle creatures. To those at the Centre, the concept of a butterfly in flight relates well to hearing-impaired children.

- 2 The diary of Tina Worland
- 8 Hear and Say pictorial
- 10 Profiles
- 15 Helpful hints
- 16 Grief cycle



Come Out, Little Butterfly

Deaf children remind me of butterflies:

At first

Encased within a cocoon

Of deep silence

Not of their making.

And then

When sound

And cadences of love

Reach them,

They emerge

In all their individual colours

Of soft or brilliant hue.

Ciwa Griffiths

the diary of tina worland “I cried and I cried

I began this diary before my baby was born and before his diagnosis on 16 February 1999. It began as a gratitude diary, a place to reflect and give thanks for the good in our lives.

Our baby was born on 27 May 1998, the day after my last entry in my gratitude diary. Reading back, I was feeling very good about the world and contented with my life - little did I know that Darcy, arriving 10 days early, would be born the next day.

What a feeling - our baby boy coming into the world.

To see him for the first time and finally meet him after months of anticipation. I was so in love and so euphoric.

I float through life - in love with the world, my life and my son. Closing my eyes and trying to relive the moment when Darcy popped his head out and I looked down for a split second and then he was there, out of my womb and on my belly. All in a fraction of a second, emotional and confused from the experience, my status had changed. I was now a MOTHER

Thank you, Lord, for life and the wonder of how it is created.

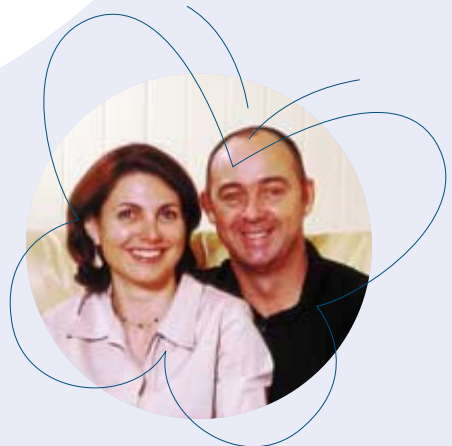
22 February 1999

Where do I start? I read through the last entry and it has been such a long time, yet it's gone so quickly, and our lives have been changed so much since then. Matthew, my husband, has sold his business and we have since moved to Brisbane to live.

16 February was to become a very significant day in all our lives. We thought we were taking Darcy to have his hearing tested, to end the suspicion of something not being quite right. I thought they would find a blockage - which can happen in children who get a lot of ear infections. In hindsight, I was in denial - Darcy had never had an ear infection.

The audiologist moved the monitor so Matthew and I could see it clearly and began the testing. I asked what we should be looking for. She explained that if Darcy was hearing sound, the line should be moving. She reassured us that it was still only early in the testing process. She had tried only one frequency, but I knew he wasn't going to respond. All the fears of the last few months were confirmed. All we had to determine was what severity. After a few more attempts that too was confirmed - PROFOUND.

I cried and cried as I watched Darcy peacefully sleeping, completely unaware of the sounds.



as I watched Darcy peacefully sleeping”

The roller coaster wouldn't stop, the bad news kept on coming and reality kept on hitting. After three days we came out from under the heavy black cloud of grief.

But we looked upon our Darcy differently. We felt pity for him and mourned for the things he wouldn't experience or hear.

We walked past a busker. I cried because he wouldn't be able to hear music. But he was still the same beautiful boy to us - for him, nothing had changed. As first-time parents we thought our child was special, but now we know he is truly special. He always had very intense eyes and was stimulated visually. Now we know why.

Tomorrow we are going to an education unit to discuss the 'habilitation therapy' for him as we will have to start immediately. The centre is called Hear and Say. I spoke to a lady called Dimity. She was very nice and gentle when I spoke with her over the phone. She was so positive and confident that Darcy would have options in his life even without hearing. She said she could offer me very good, realistic outcomes for our little boy which she couldn't have delivered seven years ago. I was bursting out of my skin after speaking with her. She offered no sign language, she said our Darcy would learn to speak. I reminded her he was profoundly deaf and she insisted that he would still learn to speak.

Here begins our story and association with the Hear and Say Centre for Deaf Children and the wonderful people there.



19 March 1999

Four weeks since diagnosis

Well, life certainly hasn't slowed down yet. We haven't finished the list of doctors' appointments. Ear, nose and throat specialists, more testing to determine residual hearing, Australian Hearing Services for fittings of hearing aids, on so on.

Just when you think you're over the grieving, you have a bad day and your fears and world come crashing down again.

Darcy has had his aids for 2 weeks. He keeps them in most times. Although, at the moment Darcy is teething and the referred pain in his head makes him pull at his ears and pull his aids out. They take great effort to insert, struggling with him to keep his hands away from his ears. Each time he pulls them out, I think - why me? Things would be so much easier if he were a hearing child.

"I feel he will overcome his disability and be a

I've had to give up the thought of working for a while and that adds to my frustration of having very few choices in my life. But I would never deny Darcy his opportunity of learning to speak and listen.

I feel he will overcome his disability and be an inspiration to us.

Darcy's lessons are coming along fine. Maybe not fast enough for us (parents). Sometimes I just feel like it's all too much for me. Being at home alone with Darcy and my thoughts. I just want to stay enveloped within my negative emotions and black mood and cry. Then, as quickly as it came over me, it's gone and I feel so ashamed for being so negative. I am grateful Darcy can be helped and there is so much hope and technology in this area.



30 April 1999

Darcy was fitted with new hearing aids yesterday. Bigger, more powerful aids. He doesn't like wearing them, they are quite large and flop against his head when he moves. He can feel they are there and we struggle to keep them on him. He has been very cranky because we won't let him take them out. I wonder how much they are really helping when he has so little residual hearing.

Dimity has got the ball rolling for the cochlear implant assessment, which will ascertain suitability for the implant. We know he is a good candidate (profoundly deaf with very little residual hearing), but we have to obtain the official assessments and reports. We had made up our minds one week after diagnosis. He has too little residual hearing and not enough hearing within the speech range to develop sufficient language. Sometimes I think we came to our decision on implantation too easily. But with Darcy's severity it was so easy.

Darcy is always so vocal and loud, to look at him you would never guess he is deaf. He is as vocal, if not sometimes more, than some hearing children. He is age- appropriate with his peers at the moment. I think one day, when he understands, he will be happy with our decision for his future.

We received the invitation from ENERGEX today. They are going to sponsor the cost of the therapies associated with cochlear implants for three children at the Hear and Say Centre.



13 May 1999

Yesterday was the ENERGEX launch for their sponsorship of the Hear and Say Centre. It was wonderful to see so many people excited about our cause and the prospect of the children being able to hear through their generosity.

I hope they understand how much it means to everyone at Hear and Say.

For the first time I heard an older implanted child speak (it was her public speaking debut). She spoke and sounded completely normal, even better. She had perfect speech and diction. Wally Lewis also spoke. It was great to hear his story. He had a much harder time coming to the decision for Jamie-Lee to receive an implant. Speaking and listening for children was a new idea back then. We have a lot of proof in the older children now living the success of the technology.

Darcy did well in his lesson today. I'm really starting to get excited about implantation and hearing Darcy speaking (that's further down the line) and seeing Darcy's reaction to sound for the first time.

This week Darcy started imitating what we must look like when we talk. He nods his head up and down, opens and closes his mouth without any sound coming out. He was imitating our facial expressions while talking. That's what he sees. It made me cry.

13 June 1999

We had Darcy's Steady State Evoked Potential test on 20 May. The results were much as we thought. He is profoundly deaf, his hearing range is between 90 and 120 decibels (an aeroplane's engine is about 120 decibels) and he doesn't have a good ear or a bad ear - they are both bad.

Darcy had his first birthday on 27 May. We had a great party for him. After all, it was his first birthday and would be his last birthday as a non-hearing child. His godparents from Townsville paid for a clown to entertain the kids - he was a real hit. Darcy roamed around freely mingling amongst his guests. He was spoilt with lovely gifts, ate Telly Tubby cake and went to bed. It's the only program he watches and he sits still for about 10 minutes.



"His smile was from ear to ear and he looked

A team meeting was held on 19 July 1999. It was very brief. It took 10 minutes for the verdict and green light to be handed down to proceed with a cochlear implant. All concerned gave Darcy a glowing report. Matthew and I were so relieved the verdict was yes.

30 June 1999

36 days untill surgery

We are having trouble keeping Darcy's aids in. He wants to communicate and according to him he is. We can understand what he wants.

Tonight I wanted to show him about sound so I turned the stereo up really loud and made him feel the vibration on the speakers and he smiled. The excitement showed in his eyes, something exciting in his silent world. It made me feel very sad.

16 August 1999

11 days after the implant

Surgery was on 5 August. All went very well, although it was very traumatic at the time. Darcy came through well and post-operative effects were mild considering he had head surgery.

Just two days after the operation he was tearing around the house on his bike, learning to walk and falling over, much to his parents' anguish at the thought of him falling and damaging the implant.

The Hear and Say teddy bears picnic was on yesterday (15 August). It was great to see the older implanted children doing so well and living life to



the fullest. You can't detect any difference in the implanted children from the non-implanted children.

We are bursting with excitement thinking about "switch on". We have friends, family and grandparents flying in to be there. All our family and friends, old and new, have been a great support throughout this. All their love and prayers have helped to comfort us and pull us through.

4 September 1999

10 days after first "switch on" day.

Switch on was on 25 and 27 of August, 3 weeks after surgery. What a day! Darcy responded well to any noise stimulus and he was happy throughout. Because of his young age, we only managed to "switch on" four electrodes on the first day. We had an audience of 10 people and the excitement was tangible.

After working out his threshold and comfort levels (softest sound he can hear and the loudest he can tolerate), he was switched on with all four

around and picked out individual sounds”

electrodes picking up sound at the same time. We spoke softly to him at first so we didn't frighten him and then we banged on cymbals, tambourines, xylophones and maracas loudly to ensure he wasn't uncomfortable with loud noise.

His smile was from ear to ear and he looked around and picked out the individual sounds. He giggled with excitement and banged the instruments himself. He was in awe of sound. The tears began to stream down our faces. We all breathed a sigh of relief. The implant works, the sound is getting in. We had arrived! The rest is hard work, but we know it will happen. At least the mechanics of the implant are functioning.

We rang our surgeon and thanked him and told him all was well. We celebrated at Hear and Say Centre with champagne and specially made cake for the grand occasion of Darcy hearing for the first time.

Epilogue

It was a little anticlimactic after the initial “switch on”. Because Darcy had no language, he was no different. Although he was an easier child to manage now with the hearing, he has become very frustrated at not being understood. He responded and turned to his name being called at five weeks after the implant and picked up sounds on his own. I'm sure he understood more than he currently responded to and the experts were predicting that by age 3 to 3^{1/2} he should be age appropriate with his language. He was 18

months old at the time of writing (and at his last lesson we calculated that he recognised over 20 words) so another 18 months didn't seem like a very long time to catch up when there was so much to learn.

Thank you, Lord, for watching over us and granting us this miracle. Thank you to all, who have been part of our journey and who are too many to mention. You will always be dear in our hearts.





Jamie-Lee and Wally. Jamie-Lee received her cochlear implant and was **'switched on'** in February 1995.

Jillian has a cochlear implant and also wears a hearing aid. She loves music, she sings with the school choir and takes **cello lessons**.



Samantha **sings** with the Gold Coast Branch of the Australian Youth Choir. Samantha also has a cochlear implant.



Julia has a cochlear implant. She will be attending Year 10 at Loreto College in 2000. Her interests include speech drama, **public speaking** and debating.



Nicholas has a cochlear implant.
He loves everything about **school**
and his favourite sport is soccer.



Sam and his family receive Hear and Say **Outreach** services and attend the centre, Brisbane, for auditory-verbal therapy and audiological services.



Zoe has a cochlear implant. She loves **music**, especially the Wiggles!



Matthew has a cochlear implant.
Matthew travels from Townsville fortnightly for auditory-verbal therapy. He loved the **Toy Story 2** movie and his favourite character is Woody.



These profiles detail the lives, challenges and achievements of some of the children from the Hear and Say Centre and their families. They hope that sharing their experiences may bring some encouragement and optimism to other families embarking on their journey to try to reach the end of the rainbow.

Hearing aid and cochlear implant



Child: **Morgan**

Date of birth: **21-5-93**

Degree of hearing loss: **Profound**

Background

At 13 months of age Morgan was diagnosed as profoundly deaf. She was fitted with hearing aids; however, received no real benefits. After tests it was decided Morgan was a suitable candidate for a cochlear implant. In January 1995, at 19 months of age, Morgan received her cochlear implant and then commenced auditory therapy at the Hear and Say Centre.

Challenges

'We decided we wanted to have one parent stay at home full time to work with Morgan. So her father took a second job and I stayed at home to work with her and take her to therapy lessons.'

Fiona, Morgan's mother.

Other challenges have included:

- Finding time for lessons at home each day and giving her enough variety to keep her interested.
- Not letting Morgan see our frustration - it took us at least six months of constant work before Morgan made a perfect "s" sound - now after three years it still chokes me up when I hear her say "s"!
- Learning not to push Morgan too hard at any time, but to let her develop at her own pace.

Achievements

"Now, after almost five years, Morgan has just completed grade one. She has learnt to read quickly and is one of the top readers in her class. Her language and speech clarity is excellent. However, this did not all just happen. It took four years of constant work, using any opportunity to develop language.

"Morgan currently enjoys Little Athletics on Friday nights, reading and roller blading. Today, it is very much a case of "what else she can do", rather than "she won't be able to do..." Fiona, Morgan's mother.



Child: **Leah**

Date of birth: **7-6-1994**

Degree of hearing loss: **Moderate**

Background

At 2^{1/2} Leah's parents noticed a problem with her hearing. After doctors' tests, it was found she had moderate hearing loss and was fitted with hearing aids. Leah then attended the Hear and Say Centre for regular sessions to learn how to hear and speak with the assistance of the hearing aid and to participate in the Centre's auditory and verbal program.

Challenges

"Working with Leah and having the responsibility was a hard thing to do, but it was very rewarding. It was all new and strange in the beginning, but everyone at the Centre was most helpful. This included parents and the "habilitation" team. I was very comfortable at the Centre and found Leah's progress to be just wonderful." Evelyn, Leah's grandmother.

Achievements

"Both Leah's parents work so I took her to the Centre for her therapy. Leah's language improved in leaps and bounds. She started dancing lessons, learnt to swim and mixed with other children without any problem.

"She had been fitted with the hearing aids for two years when she started pre-school at Forest Lake College and she has just excelled. She takes part in a speech and drama class at school and loves it. I went to her school for a special occasion one night and when her class sang I could hear Leah singing with the others. It was beautiful." Evelyn, Leah's grandmother.





Child: **Katie**

Date of birth: **18-9-95**

Degree of hearing loss:

Severe-profound bilateral loss

Background

Katie's hearing impairment was first detected at six weeks of age when her local child health clinic conducted hearing tests for a university research program into newborn screening.

After a series of tests it was determined that she had bilateral, moderate-severe sensorineural hearing impairment. I was told the condition would not improve and could not be fixed through surgery. Katie was fitted with hearing aids at four months of age. Over the first couple of years she often suffered from ear infections, which prevented her from obtaining much benefit from the aids.

Katie's hearing deteriorated further and her progress slowed. After more tests it was decided that she would benefit from a cochlear implant, which she received when she was 4 years old in October 1999. Now, six weeks on, she has been "switched on" and is learning to use her cochlear implant.

Challenges

"When Katie was fitted with hearing aids at the age of four months, keeping them in was a full-time job in itself. I kept being assured that she would accept them readily when she realised the benefit. I thought that day would never come, but eventually it did." Sarah, Katie's mother.

Other challenges have included:

- The delay in language made it hard to explain reasons for discipline.
- Especially in the earlier years, it was difficult to get her attention quickly to avoid danger.
- I was always concerned sending Katie to childcare - will they check that her aid and processor are working?
- As a sole parent, it can be difficult to balance work and home lessons.

Achievements

"Katie is a happy, energetic, creative and talented child. She loves ballet, dressing up, painting and has inherited a beautiful singing voice from my mother. She loves to tell me what she has done at kindy and always wants to know what we are going to do next. Although she needs to catch up, sometimes people are surprised to learn that she has a hearing impairment.

A wise person once told me that we value only the things that we put effort into, so it goes without saying that for me to listen to Katie speak is priceless." Sarah, Katie's mother.

Outreach



Child: **Jaradeenah**

Date of birth: **25-3-96**

Degree of hearing loss: **Profound**

Background

Jaradeenah and her family live in Townsville. She has supportive parents. Her mother is studying in addition to being involved in her therapy program. Jaradeenah's father makes fortnightly visits of two days to the Hear and Say Centre in Brisbane with Jaradeenah for her therapy and audiological services.

When Jaradeenah joined the Hear and Say Centre Outreach Program she had a profound hearing loss. After comprehensive assessment she was implanted with a cochlear implant in 1997.

Jaradeenah is very sociable and her progress in all areas has been excellent.

Challenges

The challenges have included:

- Initially not being sure of the costs involved with the cochlear implant.
- The travel has been hard, but not a great problem.
- Trying to keep up with her progress - she always has something new to say.
- Making sure her audiological equipment is functioning - especially in Townsville, where there is high humidity.

Achievements

"Jaradeenah is now 3 years old and while teaching her to speak could be a slow and frustrating process, particularly when she was young with early morning fights, constant high pitch and babbling, it was also always rewarding. She is continually learning new words and now can hear and say 'Jaradeenah', her name." Kanawi, Jaradeenah's father.

Sometimes it can be comforting and informative to speak to someone who has gone through a similar experience. The above and following families and many other parents whose children attend the Centre are happy to receive your call.

If you would like to get in touch with one of these families, please contact the Hear and Say Centre on (07) 3870 2221 during office hours and they will put you in contact with the most suitable person.

Other disabilities



Name: **Damien**

Date of birth: **10-4-97**

Degree of hearing loss: **Profound**

Background

Damien was born the second of triplets and at birth all babies were declared healthy and well. At the age of two months it was discovered that Damien had dwarfism (achondroplasia). When he was four months old it was also discovered that he was profoundly deaf. It also emerged that Damien had spinal problems requiring surgery, hydrocephalus, severe reflux, was oxygen-dependent and a chronic asthmatic.

In his first 2^{1/2} years Damien required numerous hospital stays, attended the Hear and Say Centre weekly and had hearing and physiotherapy lessons three times a day at home. Following five operations on his head to remedy shunt infections or malfunctions, Damien's hearing improved remarkably to moderate to severe and he now wears hearing aids.

After lying flat for the first nine months of his life, Damien finally learnt to walk when he was 2^{1/2} and uttered his first word at 1^{1/2}.

Challenges

"The biggest challenge for us as parents of a child with more than one disability is knowing what is causing sickness or problems at any given time. As Damien learns to communicate more this should improve. Coupled with this are fears of what the future holds for him in terms of integration into society. We've learnt to take a day at a time and to make the most of all positive outcomes." Kate, Damien's mother.

Achievements

"Today, my husband and I are delighted to say Damien is the worst climber of all my babies, revels in life, has a vocabulary of about 50 words, speaks small sentences and even tries to sing a few songs.

"Our joy at his progress is indescribable. Most importantly, he is an extremely happy little boy who holds his own amongst his siblings and who bounces back despite all the medical intervention.

We no longer fear for Damien as we did initially. We know we have a little champion, who, although he will be lucky to grow to 4 foot 4, is a giant in terms of enthusiasm for life and mental strength." Kate, Damien's mother.



helpful hints helpful hints helpful hints

Personal

"I find that even now specialists are requiring test results performed up to five years ago. My advice is to NEVER throw anything out that pertains to a child's history or language development."

Mary Harlow.

"Find someone you can talk to about coming to terms with your child's deafness. It is very hard to do on your own." Fiona Ellis.

"Always ensure teachers at school are made aware of any technical difficulties. For example, James is off the wall for a couple of days after MAPping. He really does take a few days to settle down and it's important that those around him don't mistake genuine technical problems with behaviour." Mary Harlow.

Practical

Books and resources recommended by parents of the Hear and Say Centre:

- Choices magazine, supplied by Australian Hearing Services
- Warren Eastbrook's Auditory Verbal Therapy (enquire at the Hear and Say Centre to borrow a copy or for information on how to purchase a copy)
- Information on the Internet
- Musical instruments (bought and homemade)
- Picture lotto
- Duplo and Lego (animal, farm and people sets)

- Dolls' houses and furniture
- Felt boards to create stories - available from toy stores and department stores
- Tactile toys and books and craft materials
- Photographs
- Homemade scrapbooks
- Toys promoting stimulus/response activities - for example, rings on a pole.

Places recommended by parents of the Hear and Say Centre to obtain resources they have found useful for education/therapy sessions and for use at home:

- Hear and Say Centre Library
Phone (07) 3870 2221
- Noah's Ark Resource Centre
Phone (07) 3391 2166
- Discount stores - for example:
Overflow, Crazy Clarks.
- Toy and book store
(particularly DK, K&K Toys)
- Parents of hearing-impaired children who graduated from the Hear and Say Centre - names can be obtained through the Centre
Phone (07) 3870 2221
- Household/homemade toys/items.

For ideas and helpful hints on how to best use the above resources contact the Hear and Say Centre on (07) 3870 2221.

grief cycle grief cycle grief cycle grief

Stages of Grief

When a child is diagnosed with any unexpected condition, the feelings that may surface as a parent, close family member or friend can very profound and individual.

Most parents go through a period of grief when they find out that their child has a hearing loss. It is normal and perfectly acceptable to feel this way. It is interesting that studies have shown that those who can openly express and face their emotions heal much faster than those who repress and avoid these feelings.

There are various stages of grief. These are:

Shock, disbelief: Example: Parents, who have been told their child has a hearing loss then later being unable to remember information given to them during a professional visit.

Anger: Example: Somebody must be blamed for your child's deafness - perhaps your audiologist, doctor, family.

Guilt: What did I do to cause this? Was it my fault? Was it my family?

Denial: Not acknowledging your child's loss of hearing. *Example:* Not ensuring your child is wearing hearing aids when attending a public outing or function.

Acceptance: This final stage may be difficult for some parents to reach. It will take time, perseverance, hard work and more time.

It may help to know that you, as parents, are not alone in experiencing feelings of grief. Parents responding to a Hear and Say Centre survey listed feelings of disappointment, fear, anger, grief/loss, why me? why my child? shock/scared, fear of the

unknown, out of control, bitterness and numbness.

One parent wrote, "We felt an indescribable sadness for our daughter for all the things in life that we thought she would miss, then an enormous determination to make sure she did not miss anything."

In addition to grief, many parents with children attending the Hear and Say Centre experienced the following feelings when their child was first diagnosed:

Loss: The loss of our dreams, of our perfect baby.

Worry: For our child's future, what will come in the future.

Determination: That our child wouldn't miss out on life because of a disability.

Patience: The time invested and hard work will pay off and the benefits will be visible.

Where you can turn for help

Friends and family, other parents of hearing-impaired children, professionals associated with your child's deafness.

Remember also that counsellors, psychologists, social workers are a valuable resource and that it may be necessary to consider this option.

You, as parents, have rights, as does your child and family. You have the right to be consulted and to be given clear, understandable information about your child's loss of hearing. You also have the right to seek other options if you feel this is necessary. As a family you also have the right to understanding, caring and compassion as you progress through these normal necessary stages.

hopes, challenges, **children** & butterflies

This booklet is one of the outcomes of a special relationship formed between the Hear and Say Centre in Brisbane and ENERGEX.

As one of Australia's largest energy companies, ENERGEX plays an integral part in the lives of many Australians. As such, ENERGEX has a strong commitment to support and actively participate in the community in which it operates.

It was in the spirit of this commitment that ENERGEX began its partnership with the Hear and Say Centre in 1999 through a sponsorship that assisted the Centre to help give the gift of sound to deaf children living in Queensland.



The partnership soon won the hearts of ENERGEX staff who worked together to raise an amount of \$10,000 to donate to the Centre in November 1999. This was in addition to the ENERGEX corporate sponsorship.

As the relationship between ENERGEX and the Centre developed, frequent discussions between ENERGEX and the staff and parents from the Centre identified the need for a booklet that could be given out to parents of newly diagnosed hearing-impaired children.

ENERGEX then worked with the Centre and a dedicated group of mothers to make Hopes, Challenges, Children and butterflies a reality. As coordinator and publisher of this booklet, ENERGEX hopes that it will bring comfort, understanding and hope to the parents, families and friends of newly diagnosed children.



Above: Some of the children and mothers from the Hear and Say Centre.

For more information about
anything in this booklet contact:

Special thanks to:



Hear and Say Centre

Hear and Say Centre for Deaf Children Limited
40-44 Munro Street Auchenflower Qld 4066
PO Box 930, Toowong Qld 4066

Telephone: 61 7 3870 2221

Facsimile: 61 7 3870 3998

Email: hearsay@powerup.com.au



ENERGEX Limited

150 Charlotte Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 1461 Brisbane Qld 4001