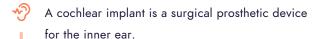
A Parent's Guide to Cochlear Implants





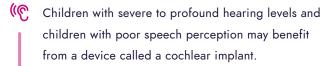
What is a cochlear implant?



- A cochlear implant system uses an external component on the head and ear that picks up sound and sends it to the implanted internal component in the inner ear.
- The implanted component includes a tiny electrode/wire that stimulates the auditory or hearing nerve, which sends sounds from the inner ear to the brain.
- The external device on the ear/head can sometimes look like a hearing aid.



Why consider a cochlear implant?



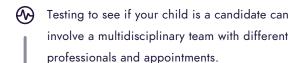
- Your child's hearing loss exceeds the limitations of their current hearing technology, so they are not receiving full access to spoken language, as determined by their audiologist or speech/language pathologist.
- Families may also be interested in ensuring their child has access to environmental sounds that they otherwise cannot access with hearing aid technology.

How would my child get a cochlear implant?





If your audiologist, speech/language pathologist, or ear, nose, and throat specialist (ENT) thinks your child might benefit from a cochlear implant, you may be referred to a cochlear implant center for testing to see if your child is a candidate.



- There are many factors to consider when deciding if your child is a candidate.
- The cochlear implant center you may be referred to will go over this process with you.



Talk to your audiologist about the possibility of your child being a candidate if:

- They were born with moderate to profound hearing loss.
- They have hearing loss that has progressed suddenly or over time.
- They do not benefit from their current hearing aid technology.







Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Do cochlear implants make hearing normal?

A cochlear implant does not restore hearing to "normal." The sound quality is different from listening through a
hearing aid or listening without hearing technology. Cochlear implants typically provide significantly improved
access to soft sounds when compared to access provided by hearing aids.

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What if I'm unsure if my child could be a candidate?

- You can always ask your audiologist for their input about the possibility of a cochlear implant. They may also be able to send you to a cochlear implant center who could answer your questions.
- o If an audiologist recommends a cochlear implant candidacy evaluation, the cochlear implant team will be able to help determine realistic expectations for your child.

3

Does it matter how old my child is?

As a general rule, the most benefit is achieved when children receive cochlear implants as soon as possible
after diagnosis or progression of hearing loss. The earlier, the better.

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How long will the surgery take?

Your child will likely stay overnight for one night following surgery. Your surgeon/your implant team will go
over the specifics with you.

What if my child is not a candidate?

- That is okay! There are many potential reasons they may not be a candidate, including medical reasons, expectations of benefit, or limited availability of local support services.
- It is good to continue focusing on their current means of communication, whether that is spoken language and hearing technology, or a visual means such as sign language.
- Do not hesitate to talk to your providers, educational team, and other parents about what modifications in technology, therapy, or communication might benefit your child.



Find more resources from Earliest Interactions:

Website: <u>earliestinteractions.com</u> Email: <u>info@earliestinteractions.com</u>

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