



*The Waiting Period:
Strategies for Parents as they
Prepare their Child for Cochlear
Implants*

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“We have determined your child is a candidate for a cochlear implant but....”

- We have to wait for your insurance to approve the procedure which could take 3-6 months
- Your child is not yet 12 months and your insurance won't approve the procedure until then
- We need to complete a trial with hearing aids





Words of Wisdom

1. Believe that everything happens for a reason, although the reason may not be clear
2. See an audiologist or other professional as soon as possible
3. Don't feel sad for too long, your baby needs you
4. Don't blame yourself
5. Learn about successful hearing impaired people
6. Get implants or hearing aids for your child to maximize their hearing and learn about all communication modes
7. Don't lose hope!



Regan Nicole Brady, 11 years old bilaterally implanted



The Waiting Period

- The 3 Ring Binder Mom
- If it Kept Your Child's Heart Pumping
- Turn off the TV
- Read like a mother!
- Connect





The 3 Ring Binder Mom

- **If services have not been initiated for your child contact your state's early hearing detection and intervention program by calling 866-997-HEAR**

- Put your child's team in place
 - Initiate, evaluate and/or increase educational/therapy services
 - Develop rapport with your professional team
- Create a communication system among you and the professionals
 - Take the lead
 - Create a Communication Book



TOOLS for TODDLERS



EARLY INTERVENTION Communication Log

(Circle one) CI was: working / not working properly today.

(Circle one) FM was: working / not working properly today.

Please describe any equipment problems:

Ling Sound Test	ah	eeee	oo	sh	sssss	mmm	(silence)
Detected							
Identified							

(Circle all that apply) Child was happy/upset/tired/focused/not focused.

Notes regarding today's session:

Ideas and concepts for family to work on at home:

I have read these notes from school: _____
Parent/Caretaker Initials



<http://www.advancedbionics.com/CMS/Rehab-Education/Tools-For-Toddlers/>



If it Kept Your Child's Heart Going

“Because every dB counts”

~D. Goldberg, PhD



- Physical presence of something on the ear
- Developing the auditory pathway
- Consider adding FM



Create a Listening Rich Home

- Develop
 - Auditory Awareness
- Establish:
 - Routines for Listening
- Create:
 - Acoustic Friendly Home





Develop Auditory Awareness

- Draw a child's attention to meaningful sound
- Utilize a cue to signal "listen"
- Employ a natural and developmental approach
- Condition for a behavioral auditory response





Establish Routines

- Follow a schedule
 - Children like routines
- Create new experiences and exposures
 - Use of the child's other senses i.e. touch, smell, visual
- Think like a child
 - Understand a child's development and use that to your advantage





An Acoustically Friendly Home

- Beware of background noise
 - Children with hearing loss need the speech to be 22 dB louder than the noise around them
- Stay close to your child during listening moments
 - Moving from 3 feet to 6 feet away can cost 6 dB of loudness
- Decrease competing distractions



Read Like a Mother

- Develops attention and turn taking skills
- Introduces vocabulary
- Imprints speech patterns
- Encourages Motherese
- For more information:
 - “The Read Aloud Handbook” by Jim Trelease
 - Advancedbionics.com





- Surround yourself support
 - Family members
 - Professionals
 - Other parents of children with cochlear implants
 - Join an organization
 - Professional references
 - BEA Mentor





Get Extended Family on Board

- Understand the technology
- Understand your goals
- Understand the expectations
- Include family as part of the process





Prepare for Surgery

- Keep her healthy!
- Consider preparing her.
- Who else should I prepare?
 - Yourself
 - older siblings
 - extended family



Find Resources

- The Listening Room

- Tools for Toddlers



- Bionic Ear Association



www.thelisteningroom.com



- Activities
- Music
- Resources





This resource provides tools to help a young child maximize hearing success

- Product Information
- Product Troubleshooting
- Educational management
- OnLine Education Courses
- Workshops
- On-call and online support
 - 866-844-HEAR

- ToolsForSchools@advancedbionics.com





The Bionic Ear Association

- BEA Support Center
 - [866-844-HEAR](tel:866-844-HEAR)
 - Hear@AdvancedBionics.com
- Hearing Journey Online Community
 - www.HearingJourney.com
- Connect with a Mentor Online
 - www.BionicEar.com/CTM
- Attend a Chapter Meeting
 - www.BionicEar.com/BEA





Summary

- Interim strategies to set up a successful transition to receiving a cochlear implant
- Pre-development of listening and language skills
- Create “good” listening and language habits at home
- Educate yourself and those who are a part of your child’s life



Enjoy the Results

