Taralye Bulletin Volume 28, April 2009

TALK

OUR KIDS AT TARALYE

Nadine's Story

Nadine and her two siblings, Sam and Kate, were born profoundly deaf due to a genetic disorder. For Alan and Carmel to see their three children talking and laughing with each other is nothing short of a miracle. Thanks to cochlear implants and early intervention all three children have learnt to listen and speak.

Nadine, the baby of the family is a very active three year old. She loves attending Taralye's Toddler program on Tuesday mornings and comes home singing all the songs she has learnt. Nadine is an extremely determined little girl and likes to have things done her way…..and NOW! Nadine loves to talk to people on the phone, especially her Nana in Western Australia. When not talking on the real phone she chats away on her toy phone to all sorts of people!

This is a far cry from when Nadine was a baby. She was very quiet and she had no reaction to sound. Upon testing at Taralye's audiology clinic she was diagnosed as profoundly deaf. Nadine received a cochlear implant at 14 months and from an early age has learnt to listen and speak. This year she is attending Taralye's 3 year old kindergarten program.

Nadine's family is really looking forward to watching her grow and achieve what ever she wants. They believe with the wonderful help from Taralye the sky's the limit for her and anything is possible.

Jacob's Story

Jacob was diagnosed with profound deafness at 15 months. His parents were absolutely devastated to learn of their son's disability.

Jacob's family lives in rural Victoria with little access to hearing impairment services. Taralye provides Jacob's family with a much-needed support network and opportunity to obtain advice on the ongoing issues they face.

Early intervention for Jacob has meant huge changes in how he interacts and communicates. Jacob has learnt to listen and speak with the aid of his cochlear implants. He calls his cochlear implants – "special ears" and every morning he asks his Mum or Dad to "put on my special ears". Jacob likes having his "ears on" to make sure he knows what's going on around him! Jacob is a four year old with a mission – he is not going to miss out – he is going to be involved in everything happening around him!

It costs approximately $12,000 per year to provide professional support for Nadine or Jacob to learn to listen and speak. Although we realize times are tough we need your support today to continue our life changing work at Taralye.

LOUD SHIRT DAY—15 MAY 2009

Loud Shirt Day is a national fundraising and awareness campaign which raises money to get deaf kids talking. On Loud Shirt Day, schools and businesses put aside their usual dress rules and step out across Australia in their loudest, kookiest and brightest shirts, ties or socks to raise much needed funds for deaf children.

We would like you to encourage your office to **go loud** and **get groovy** and to make a donation to the cause. By making a donation a vital difference is made to the lives of deaf children. Once a year, going loud for a day can help a deaf child's future development!

Funds raised in Victoria and Tasmania will be used to benefit Taralye. The event raised over $63,000 in 2008 and we need your help to get even **LOUDER** in 2009 so register your business online at www.loudshirtday.com.au

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Taralye recognizes these are difficult times, but deaf babies cannot wait for the economic recovery. To help us get them on their journey into the world of sound we need your support.

You can help support Taralye's life changing work by choosing one of the fundraising initiatives listed below.

Buy an **Entertainment Book** for 2009/10 from Taralye. The book is your guide to the best restaurants, hotel accommodation, attractions, sports and leisure activities ..... all with **25% to 50% off** or **2 for 1 offers.** Available at reception from April 2009.

Join the **Ritchies** Supermarkets **Community Benefit Program.** Simply pick up a pre-registered Ritchies card from reception and start shopping. Visit www.ritchies.com.au for further information.

Register your workplace or your child's school to participate in **Loud Shirt Day.**

Make a donation directly to Taralye. Contact Di Jackson on 9875 6647 or call into our centre during business hours.

Taralye appreciates the support of many donors. In particular I would like to thank the Shane Warne Foundation, Deafness Foundation, Variety The Children's Charity, the Bell Charitable Trust, Holden Staff Club, and H V McKay Charitable Trust for the Promotion of Oral Education of the Deaf for supporting our service this year.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Sunshine Foundation and ANZ Victorian Foundation for their sponsorship of the Talk Newsletter for 2009.

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Taralye
the oral language centre for deaf children
getting deaf kids talking

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