



## In Their Own Words: Mike and Julie Carr

**Julie Lyles Carr:** --been like for you so far, with this approach of using Listening and Spoken Language for Maesy, hearing technology, and all of that.

**Mike Carr:** It started out with a whole lot of fear, not knowing what direction to go. We were heavy business-- a lot of things were going on at same time. Then it's also been pretty inspiring, the way you ran across Listening and Spoken Language, starting in a more traditional or known approach, and then making, on faith, the decision to go Listening and Spoken Language. And the reasons that we decided to work with that, with Maesy, has seen some of the other kids who were older--That meaning that girl in Oklahoma City who had great language, who spoke and conversed with us--

**Julie Lyles Carr:** Very inspiring.

**Mike Carr:** In a wonderful way.

**Julie Lyles Carr:** That's some good juice to keep going.

**Mike Carr:** In the video of the girl running through the--

**Julie Lyles Carr:** Yeah, this is like 14 years ago, or something. And it was so inspiring to see this child caught on video who was communicating at such a high level on walkie-talkies.

**Mike Carr:** Right.

**Julie Lyles Carr:** And I thought, oh, if we can even get-- if we can edge even close to that, that'll be amazing.

**Mike Carr:** Yeah, and I never thought we could get there. I thought that's really neat, but we started too late. We just-- based on where Maesy was at the time, in fact, I just knew in my heart of hearts, I knew we could never get there. But if we could get even close.

**Mike Carr:** And now she is so much further than that. And it's really inspiring. And it was a wonderful path, in that way, looking back on it now. I didn't feel like it at the time. But knowing how fearful it was at the beginning and being afraid we couldn't get too far, and then now seeing where Maesy is, it's really been inspiring.

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