



LSL Life - Dacie & Carlie

Father: We have a little bit of land and some cows and horses and we raise our kids in the country. They get to play free and do what country girls do.

Mother-Jennie: We love it out here.

Father: We have three daughters. Our oldest is Josie, she's eleven.

Josie: *Here chickies.*

Father: She's got normal hearing.

Mother-Jennie: Dacie is nine years old. She loves to be outdoors. She wants to do anything with the animals.

Dacie: *C'mon. Tsk, tsk, tsk,*

Father: She was born with bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. So we've been walking that out for nine years.

Mother-Jennie: Carlie's five. Got lots of energy and she's happy. All the time.

Carlie: *Could you catch one of those chickens?*

Father: Carlie was also born with bilateral sensorineural hearing loss and she wears hearing aids.

Mother-Jennie: A typical day in the Murray household is, the girls get up, go out and do their chores before school. They take care of the chickens, give them feed and water, gather the eggs.

Father: Jennie gets the girls all ready for school and they eat breakfast here at the house, and I take them to school. This lifestyle builds independence. It builds self-confidence. It builds work ethic. Things that we value and that we wanted to instill in our kids

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- Mother-Jennie: With Dacie's diagnosis we would possibly have to move to a bigger city where we could be close to a facility that could give her the services that she needed.
- Father: As far as dreams of being in the country and stuff ... it all ... it didn't matter. None of that mattered anymore. When you first get this diagnosis, you have no history of it in your family, you know nothing about hearing loss. All these questions roll through your mind, and then you start researching it and there's just lots of different avenues.
- Father: We chose Listening and Spoken Language because it was the path where, more or less, our child's a normal hearing child.
- Mother-Jennie: When we got pregnant with Carlie, we knew that there was a chance that she would have hearing loss as well. We knew then and it was fine. And she has hearing loss and it's still fine.
- All the girls: *Ah-wooo! C'mon cows!*
- Father: Hearing loss has not hindered country life at all.
- Father: We actually work from home so we're here most of the days. Jennie goes. Picks them up. They come home. They get a snack. Every day they go outside and do some chores.
- Mother-Jennie: They have responsibilities around here and they do it everyday.
- Dacie: We have a bull, three cows, two calfs.
- Carlie: One of them are just a newborn baby.
- Dacie: Darlin', Doak, Clementine, Sugar, Starburst.
- Josie: Someone wants to eat.
- Josie: *Hey! Get off!*

- Dacie: She was so hungry she tried to get the food all to herself. She always does that, but sometimes she doesn't get away with it.
- Dacie: *Josh.*
- Carlie: *I know what to do!*
- Josie: *You okay?*
- Josie: *Josh!*
- Dacie: We have to feed Josh the brown horse out in the pasture because he gets less, and he eats faster.
- Josie: *There you go! Get the gate!*
- Dacie: And then we have to let Navajo in the yard because he gets more and he eats slower.
- Father: The reality is, I haven't fed horses in ... I don't know how long. I mean I don't ... I don't do it anymore. They do it and they love doing it.
- Dacie: *Hold him. Whoa.*
- Mother-Jennie: They're also responsible for grooming them. Regular brushing.
- Josie: Whoa. Whoa, Josh. Whoa.
- Mother-Jennie: Carlie is our small animal lover. She loves to play with the cats and chase the chickens around.
- Carlie: Here kitty kitties! Here kitty kitties!
- Carlie: We have two cats and they're friendly to us and kind to us and stuff. And I just love them. We feed them every day, that's my job.
- Father: Typically, homework's after chores.

- Mother-Jennie: And then our girls are free to go outside and play almost whenever they want, without us.
- Carlie: I just like playing outside with Josie and Dacie.
- Josie: *Whoa, Josh.*
- Carlie: These are saddle pads. They're so the horse's back does not hurt whenever we put on the saddle.
- Mother-Jennie: The girls get to ride the horses sometimes in the evening.
- Dacie: This is Navajo and he's a paint. Paint means he has different colors. He has brown and white and a little black. He's super old. He's the oldest horse.
- Father: What do I love about our life with our girls? I love that they're independent. I love that they're confident. I love that they can walk up to somebody and look them in the eye and speak to them.
- Mother-Jennie: I love that they're growing to be confident, hardworking young ladies, and that we're trying the best we can to prepare them for the future. Hearing loss is not something that's gonna keep them from doing anything.
- Father: We think about, we look back now, we're nine years later and we didn't even know what it meant for our prayers to be answered.
- Dacie: *Dear Lord, thank you for this food and thank you for what you've done.*
- Everybody: *Amen.*
- Father: *Alright.*
- Mother-Jennie: *Here.*
- Josie: *Thank you.*

Mother-Jennie: The girls bedtime routine is usually baths or showers. For Dacie it's time to read. And with Carlie it's learning her sight words.

Carlie: *Am.*

Mother-Jennie: Very good.

Carlie: *On.*

Mother-Jennie: Mm-hmm.

Mother-Jennie: And then read a book.

Mother-Jennie: *Alright. I love you Princess Carlie.*

Mother-Jennie: I'm going to take your ears off, okay?

Carlie: *Okay.*

Mother-Jennie: *Okay.*

Mother-Jennie: *I'm going to go ahead and take your ears off now, okay?*

Dacie: *Okay.*

Dacie: Good night.

Mother-Jennie: *Good night. I love you.*

Father: The independence that they gain from being able to experience things on their own that we're not a part of, and they get to learn and solve problems, like out in the woods on the adventure walks, that we don't even know about. It's good. Country life is good.