



## LSL Life - Ethan

Ethan's Father: *Three, two, one, blast off!!*

Ethan's Mother: We have two sons. One is Gavin. He's eight years old. He was born a typical hearing child. Our second son is Ethan. He's six years old. He was born with severe to moderate hearing loss in one ear and auditory neuropathy in the other.

Ethan: *Look, I can do a handstand!*

Ethan's Father: *You can do a handstand? Let's see. That's good, man!*

Ethan's Mother: My Ethan is loving, you know. He's a warm, kind-hearted kid.

Ethan's Father: He loves to dance. He loves all types of sports.

Gavin: *Good, now turn around and go. Good job.*

Ethan: *I have two points.*

Ethan's Father: Ethan is very competitive, especially when it comes to his brother.

Ethan's Mother: Ethan and Gavin have been the best of friends since day one. They are each other's protector. They are each other's confidant.

Ethan: I like to play with my brother. Legos are my favorite because we can build with them.

Ethan: *Gavin, move your head.*

Gavin: *Wanna build a rocket ship?*

Ethan: Yes.

Gavin: *Okay.*

- Ethan: I built this ship that goes in space, and I built this ship that can fly and shoot. Like this.
- Ethan's Mother: When I was pregnant with Ethan, I thought that everything would be fine and he would do just as well as his brother had done in those last two and a half years. I did everything that I thought was necessary: taking vitamins prior to conceiving, exercising, eating the right foods and avoiding the bad things.
- Ethan's Mother: *Hi man! Oh my goodness.*
- Ethan's Father: *Hi, did we interrupt you from your nap? Hey son.*
- Ethan's Mother: When Ethan was born, he didn't pass the hearing test. It was like our world came crashing down.
- Ethan's Father: I was a little in denial. It wasn't until I read the final report, when it stated that with Ethan's hearing impairment is probably educationally and communicatively handicapping. That's when it hit me. You know, you're telling me that my child's not going to be able to learn. He's not going to be able to communicate with others. He's not going to be able to hear us tell him that we love him and reciprocate that back to us.
- Ethan's Mother: There wasn't really anything that was given to us to say, "Hey, you have an option for your child to be a part of the hearing speaking world!" But my hopes and my dreams and my desires for Ethan never changed. I remember being at work and a coworker of mine, another nurse, asked me, "How are things going with Ethan?". I told her that I was enrolling in sign language classes and she said, "No, Kendra. No." She advised me to get a second opinion. That was the day that changed our lives. After we discovered that there was Listening and Spoken Language, there was a sense of urgency because, if you don't hear the language, you won't be able to speak the language.

Ethan's Father: We just put both feet in, put our faith in God and just proceeded forward with it. It's the best decision we've ever made.

Ethan's Mother: Mm-hmm

Ethan's Father: *Ethan.*

Ethan: *Ah! Ya, ya, ya! Ah, ya, ya!*

Ethan's Father: *Hey Buddy! Good morning!*

Ethan: Happy Birthday!

Ethan's Father: *All right.*

Ethan: *I won.*

Ethan's Mother: Ethan's personality began to flourish as he gained access to sound. I think once he began to understand the language he was able to communicate a little bit more. His confidence peaked. You know, we could see it unfold.

Ethan: *That was a ninja kick.*

Ethan's Father: *That was a ninja kick?*

Ethan: *Is this the deep end?*

Ethan's Father: *Yeah.*

Ethan: *Oh! I'm in the deep end!*

Ethan's Father: *Up the sideline! Up the sideline! Go, Ethan! Go!*

Coach: *Okay now, take it in and shoot it. Good shot, Buddy!*

Ethan's Mother: If I were to talk to new parents who were experiencing hearing loss with their child, I will tell them to continue to

seek answers. Don't give up. Stay hopeful. And right now it seems like it's storming and it's raining, but there's a rainbow at the end of it all.