



## LSL Life - Fletcher

Mom: *Alright, guys. Dinner's ready.*

When I was first pregnant, we were so excited. My sister was pregnant with her third. His brother's wife was pregnant with her second, and so, it was kind of this family thing.

Dad: You think, you know, everything's going to be perfect, but when this one thing goes wrong, and they say that your baby's deaf, it's a tough pill to swallow.

Mom: When he was diagnosed with his hearing loss, it was on his one month birthday. It was really hard finding out that he hadn't been hearing me that whole time. So, I used to hum on his head, because I was like, "Maybe the vibrations or something". My mind went down a dark hole. I was just afraid that he was going to be alone, silent, and helpless.

Every Sunday night, my parents have all of us over for dinner. I was kind of imagining all of us talking and laughing and him just not getting to participate in it. I immediately thought of all the things his dad and my dad do with the kids, like going to the lake and going to the river and going hunting. He's going to be excluded from all that stuff. His world just got really small.

Dad: *What is that?*

Family: *Awe!*

Mom: *Fletcher, where's your ear? Hehe, yay!*

Dad: Whenever we have free time, we just go hang out in the garage doing real projects or just having fun.

*Just like that. Now just mark it. Perfect.*

Fletcher: *Did it.*

Dad: *Alright, good.*

Fletcher: One of my favorite projects from the garage is making the big swing.

Dad: We were literally best buddies.

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- Mom: Fletcher has eight cousins. When we found out about Fletcher's hearing loss, I didn't think he'd get to play sports with them. Now there's four of them that go to golf.
- Fletcher: I like golf lessons.
- Coach: *I want you to line up; turn your body around a little bit. Put this foot here. There you go, like that. That's what I want right there.*
- Atta boy Fletcher! That was a great shot.*
- Fletcher: *Oh yeah! Oh yeah! Oh yeah!*
- Dad: All of his sporting teams too, they're just regular kids, regular school. There's no special accommodations for what he does.
- Mom: *And onions. Will you be in charge of taking all the cellophane off the things?*
- Fletcher: *Yeah.*
- Mom: One of the hardest things for me to think of was family dinner and to think about him just being excluded, but it's completely opposite of what we expected.
- Fletcher: *Does anyone want chips?*
- Family 1: Yeah!
- Family 2: *I want some, Fletch!*
- Family 3: *Thank you, Fletch!*
- Aunt: *Fletcher, how was golf? Did you beat George?*
- Fletcher: *Yeah. I actually swung it like - it broke the tee.*
- Aunt: *You hit it so hard.*
- Fletcher: *The golf ball just went like straight and in the air.*
- Mom: *They're so competitive!*

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Fletcher: *Woo! Aw! Knocked it out!*

Mom: In the beginning there's so much sadness, but the cool thing that happens is when they start to hear it's like celebration after celebration after celebration.

*Fletcher will you teach Sam some new words?*

Fletcher: *Can you say sunglasses?*

Little brother: *Sah-gah-gah!*

Dad: The kid is amazing, and he can do everything any other kid can do.

Mom: It's actually beyond what I even thought it would be if he was a hearing child. Everything we thought he wouldn't be, he is, and more.