



LSL Life – Maya

- Mom: My dreams were just what every mom would dream for, being able to raise a little baby, just going to the park, and the pool, and all that stuff. What they would do with their future.
- Dad: When I held her for the first time, I was nervous. But, it was good as well.
- Mom: Once we got a solid diagnosis of her hearing loss, it was just a state of shock and disbelief. This can't be true. How did this happen? What did I do? I took all my vitamins. I went to all my appointments. I'm trying to pinpoint a reason why this happened.
- Dad: It was kind of hard to believe for me as well, because nothing like this has ever happened in our family.
- Mom: We did feel a sense of shame. I felt like I had to always justify her diagnosis. If I couldn't hide it, I wanted to explain it away. I said, "Oh, this is Maya, but she, she's deaf."
- She heard our voice for the first time when she was four months old, when she got her hearing aids. So when we spoke to her, her face completely changed. We didn't know what we were missing. We didn't know what she was missing, until that moment.
- Dad: We had to change our mindset. We had to learn that she's deaf, but yet, she's a functioning, normal kid.
- Maya: It says the word, "Listen."
- Mom: She just finished first grade and that's a huge milestone.
- Maya: My favorite thing about first grade was art class.
- Mom: She's won multiple awards for her art.
- Maya: *We put clear glue slime, slime activator and then all the glitter. I think I was born to love slime.*
- Mom: She cracks me up all the time.
- Maya: I like to see my brother laugh.
- Baby, baby Josiah.*

8/2015

I help Josiah by playing with him.

Peek-a-boo.

Yes. I help with the bath sometimes. I like to pick out Josiah's clothes.

And definitely this one!

Mom: *Again?*

She'll do everything, except change diapers. That's where she draws her line.

Maya: I love Josiah.

Mom: Once we changed the way we thought about hearing loss and thought about her, it didn't matter what other people thought, and it was just, this is Maya. That's it. Now if I introduce Maya to someone, I will tell them that she loves to dance and swim and paint. Kids ask her, "What is that you have on your ear?" She just says, "It helps me hear." Okay, let's move on, let's play.

Friend: We've been friends for four years. We like to play and tell jokes. How do you make a fruit punch?

Maya: I don't know.

Friend: You give it boxing lessons.

Maya: When do you stop at green and go at red?

Friend: When?

Maya: When you eat a watermelon!

Friend: Oh yeah.

Maya: *You do that one. I saw a rainbow in there!*

Mom: My hopes and dreams for Maya are not limited at all. It was very limited in the beginning, I did not think she was going to accomplish much, if anything. I didn't think she was going to have a career or get married, whatever you want for your child. I didn't think she was going to accomplish that.

8/2015

Now, my goodness, what can't she do? Whatever she puts her mind too, she can accomplish it.