

SLOANE

August **31, 2012**



Hi, my name is Sloane and I am 11 years old! This is a picture of me coming home from the hospital! I was born deaf and had cochlear implant surgery at 11 months old. Sloane was born in Newton Wellsley Hospital in Massachusetts. She failed her newborn hearing test which was confirmed with an ABR as a bilateral severe to profound loss when she was 2 weeks old.

Signing "Daddy"

Before I had the surgery, I wore hearing aids beginning at 3 months old. My family knew hearing aids wouldn't benefit my speech, but I still wore them.

We began early intervention services which included sign language and speech therapy.

Cochlear Implant Surgery

Sloane received bilateral cochlear implant surgery with a MED-EL device and 5 days after activation she looked at me signed "Mom" and said "Mum-Mum." She hasn't stopped talking since!

Education

- L: Pre-K Millneck Manor School for the Deaf
- R: K-6 Public School



Fun!

I have found ways to make sure my MED-EL processors stay secure. I wear a headband and tuck the magnets in my hair. As long as they are on, I can hear perfectly!

Sports

I play 4 sports: soccer, flag football, softball, and volleyball. Soccer is my favorite. If my processors ever fall off, I try to pick it up as I run, but if I can't I'll just finish the play and then go back to grab it. **Yes, I'm THAT committed to sports!**



Thank you, EHDI

This is what early detection can achieve 11 years later. The focus isn't on the loss of hearing but the **gain of a full life** and for Sloane it's sports! The ability to receive early detection/intervention changed her life, and ours as a family in supporting her. We love her, are so proud of her, and are grateful to organizations like EHDI!

