

ADVANCING AWARENESS – Harnessing parental power

Why this matters to me...



Tanya Saunders – CI Mum – Publisher of books for families with (and without) hearing loss

hello@avidlanguage.com | www.avidlanguage.com

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Being a CI-parent and publishing books for families with (and without) hearing loss has taught me many things...

- Stories with strong representation spread awareness, show what's possible and break social stigma around hearing loss.
- As parents facing an unexpected, uncertain future for our children, we feel stronger knowing we're not alone.
- We learn and take courage from each other's experiences.

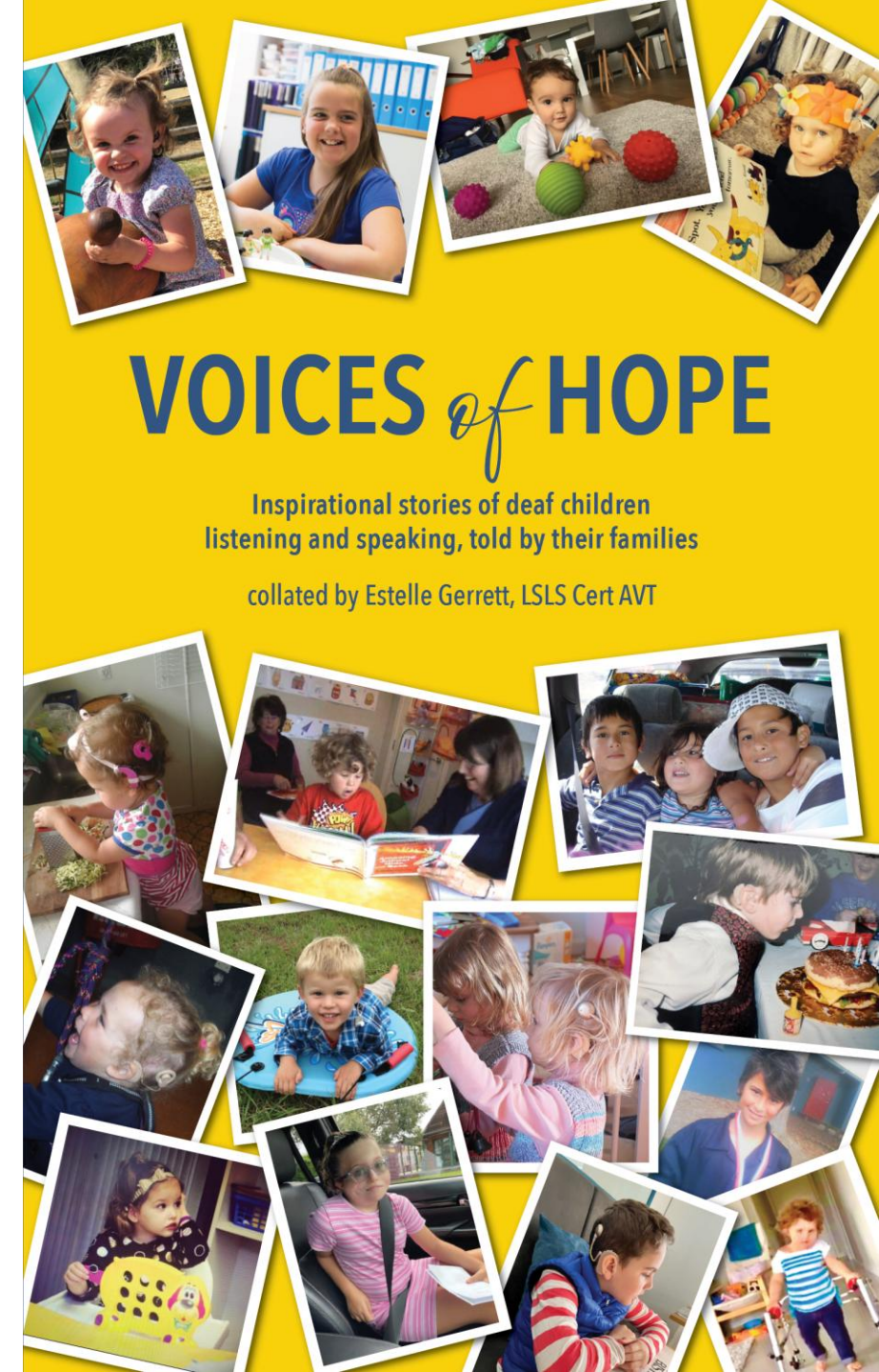


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***VOICES OF HOPE: How can we harness
the same powerful advocating power of
parents in LMIC?***

But instead of telling personal stories about individual children, **focus on advocacy** – how are parents changing the landscape for their children in their respective countries?

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Create a “Story Bank” on the CIICA website to:

- Bring together parental experience from LMIC around the world;
- Advance awareness and inspire advocacy;
- Highlight challenges and successes in increasing access to CI and services.

Not to create unrealistic expectations or false hope, but to start advocacy efforts at the point where each respective country currently is...

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How you can help:

- If you are the parent of a CI-child, write your own advocacy story.
- Collate stories from other parents who are strong advocates in your country.
- Translate the stories into English for the CIICA website.

Please think about the following questions as a guide:

- What was your biggest challenge?
- What has been your greatest support/help?
- What was your greatest achievement?
- What advice would you give another parent?
- **How did you make change happen?**

**FULL DETAILS IN YOUR
CONFERENCE PACK**

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You don't need to be an expert author - just write as you speak... **your story, not how you tell it, is the most important thing.**

Your stories will initially be published on the CIICA website and shared in the network. **They will be anonymous, but your country will be named.**

CIICA will collate a report on the issues which arise from parents.

This is just the beginning of CIICA's advocacy push to expand access to hearing care and cochlear implants in LMIC – **please support our efforts and let your own advocacy stories do the talking!** *Thank you!*

- 700 words maximum, with 2 images, if possible, which have consent (images don't have to show identifiable people, if you would rather remain anonymous)
- Closing date for submission: 15 Jan 2026
- Send to info@ciicanet.org with your name, email, country, current age of child, and their age at implantation

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