

Argentina

Caregiver Name: Natalie
Age at Implantation: 2

Child: Lucía
Age Today: 6

I am Lucía's Mother and as a mother, **the greatest challenge I faced throughout this process was reaching a diagnosis.**



I felt that something wasn't right. I noticed that Lucía did not react to certain everyday situations and every time I mentioned this to the pediatricians she had or the speech therapists who evaluated her, they always found some explanation to reassure me. For a while, I trusted their words.

Until one day I said 'enough' and went directly to an otolaryngologist, something that, unfortunately, should have been suggested much earlier. That was when something I had suspected was confirmed. Lucía was hearing far less than I had imagined. In her left ear, she could not hear any sound at all and in her right ear, only one tone.

Everything happened very quickly. At the end of September 2021, we received the diagnosis, and in February 2022, Lucía received her first cochlear implant. Just as her surgeon had told us, from the moment it was activated, everything was wonderful. Lucía loved her implant from the very beginning. She started discovering each sound and associating what she has seen during the first three years of life with a noise. It was a completely new world—for her and for us as a family.

We never doubted that the implant was the solution. Her hearing could not have been worse, so whatever came next, whether a lot or a little, was going to be positive. We searched for a surgeon who gave us confidence and peace of mind, and Lucía connected with him the very first moment they met.

On August 2 of that same year, she received her second implant. By then, everything was already different. Lucía could hear, **she began saying her first letters and then some words. She learned her name was Lucía, and little by little we kept moving forward. Today, she forms sentences and expands her vocabulary every day.**

The journey is not easy. It requires a great deal of dedication from both the family and professionals. But everything, absolutely everything is worth it. I waited so long to hear her say 'Mom', to have her turn around when I called her name, or her to answer 'what, Mom?'. There are truly no words to describe everything we have lived through.

Along this path, fortunately, we met wonderful people who supported and accompanied us throughout the process and continue to do so today. Talking with mothers who had already gone through this experience helped me tremendously. Everything was new to me, and I didn't really know what it was all about.



Learning to hear does not happen overnight; it is truly a team effort. Lucía gives it her all and even when she is very tired, she keeps going. I am deeply proud of every one of her achievements. She has beautiful implants, which we decorate and take care of with so much love.

The implants gave Lucía back a sense she was missing. Many times, I say they are magical, but the truth is they are not. Many people work every single day to make this magic possible, and for that, I am immensely grateful. **If you are a parent and have fears or doubts, think about all of the good that will come from the moment the processor is activated. Don't give up. It is always worth trying.**