

South Africa

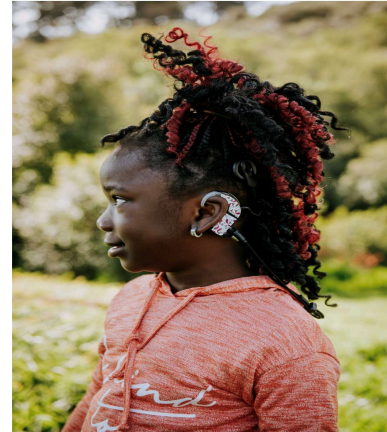
Caregiver Name: Mamie
Age at Implantation: 2

Child: Peace Victoria
Age Today: 8

My name is Mamie and I'm Peace Victoria's mum who is a CI user. I'm originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo and have been a permanent resident in South Africa for 20 years now.

Peace is 8 years old now. Born on August 8th, 2017. At 10 months she had meningitis and was treated at a Children's hospital. Where we were then discharged after she completed the antibiotics and some more medication was given for her to take home.

While in the hospital hearing tests were done and she passed, we went again for a checkup 3 months later she passed and all was fine.



In March 2019 I noticed that she wasn't responding very well when you called or spoke to her. She was also delayed in her taking. I called the hospital to make a new appointment for her ears to be checked since I was worried. We went there on April 15th, 2019, and were told that she was struggling to pick up sound.

They sent us to another facility to do more tests since their room for these tests were not available. The next day we went for the tests, and they told me that she had lost both hearing permanently, and after that I was told, she would have to use hearing aids. It was 2 weeks later that she got the hearing aids, and I was told that they were not sure yet if she could hear - let's give her some time. After a month, tests were done, confirmed that she can't hear with the aids, a cochlear implant was suggested and this was the first time I heard about it...she had the surgery in June 2019 and got the cochlear implant on July 9th, 2019.

This was a big relief for me that my child could hear and speak again. **The biggest challenge that I had was to first accept that my daughter is deaf, the rejection from the family that did not support me enough and the blame that they put on me saying that I was not praying enough for such a thing to happen to my little girl.** I had to take her every week for speech therapy, work hard with her so that she could improve. A few months later I divorced their abusive father which left me as a single mum with 3 kids. This made my life very complicated since I had to deal with all the situation on my own.



Thank you to the CI Unit in the hospital for all the support and encouragement I always receive from them. Peace is in a special school for kids with hearing impaired, she progressed to the third grade now. The school has been a great pillar of support to both of us. Peace has settled well in school and has also developed a strong social confidence though she suffered from anxiety and went on medication for quite some time. She received a sound processor upgrade in March 2025, so she now wears a newer

model. This was obtained through hospital funding.

Peace is a good technology user; her most recent hearing test shows good access to sound and she can discriminate soft speech 92% of words. This score reflects effective hearing through her cochlear implant.

My advice to other parents is that this is a hard and stressful journey sometimes. We first need to accept the condition of our kids so that you can have the strength to support and help your child.

Reach out to other parents in the same situation for emotional support. Ask for help where you feel stuck.

Also remember to start saving some money even a small amount that you can, this will help with repairs or replacement for spares parts when needed. To the parents with small kids, always pay good attention to the development of your kids and this can help with an early awareness.

Today, Peace has effective hearing through her Cochlear Implant. This is a life changer for us.