

VIETNAM

Caregiver: Thị Mai
Age at Implantation: 3

Child: Tùng Lâm
Age Today: 10

Tùng Lâm was born on January 21, 2016, carrying our immense hope for a bright and beautiful future. However, those dreams soon collided with a harsh reality when we discovered that our son was born with profound hearing loss.

That moment was a devastating shock that left us completely broken. But after the painful tears, my husband and I told ourselves: we must stand up and find sound for our child. We began the journey by purchasing hearing aids and tirelessly teaching him at home. Yet, this stage was incredibly gruelling. Tung Lam was uncooperative, his hearing remained limited, and speech therapy felt like a dead end. **Despite our efforts to have him mimic our lip movements for hours on end, progress was painfully slow, leaving us exhausted and heavy-hearted.**



The year 2018 marked a major turning point when we were introduced to an education centre for children with disabilities. Thanks to the guidance of their teachers and the auditory-verbal training courses, our path was no longer a shot in the dark. We gained the confidence to set appropriate goals, turning every playtime into a purposeful interaction. The results were sweet: Tung Lam made remarkable progress. The moment he uttered his first words, "Papa" and "Mama," our hearts truly overflowed with happiness.

Despite living nearly 30km away, we never missed a single auditory-verbal therapy session. We understood that to accompany our child, we, the parents, had to be the first students.

An even greater milestone arrived on Tung Lam's third birthday (January 21, 2019), when he underwent cochlear implant surgery. However, while the surgery opened the "door" to sound, it also signalled the start of a challenging rehabilitation journey. **At times, we felt overwhelmed by the complexity of post-surgical speech and language intervention.**

In those difficult times, the **support from all the professionals and teachers became the decisive key.** Their invaluable financial and technical assistance helped Tung Lam escape a world of silence. Without these compassionate hands, our son could not have achieved the progress he has made today. This is a priceless gift that strengthens our faith to continue this long journey.

Today, our greatest pride is not just Tung Lam's ability to hear and speak,



but his confidence in connecting with the world. Seeing him as a happy primary school student with excellent academic results is a testament to his resilience and the miracle of technology. Our family has completely transformed our lifestyle, dedicating ourselves to understanding hearing loss so we can best support him at home, hoping to close the gap between him and his peers.

To parents in similar circumstances: This journey is arduous, but you are not alone. Stay proactive, be patient, and cherish every tiny step forward. **Tung Lam's story is a profound expression of gratitude to our supporters and a firm affirmation: When families persevere and the community joins hands, every child with hearing loss has the chance to reach for a bright future.**