

# video1686706979

**Christy:** [00:00:00] You are listening to the Love and Language Podcast where we inspire hearing parents of d/Deafchildren and remind you that as long as you are giving your child love and language, you are doing a great job.

**Christy:** Welcome back to the Love and Language Podcast where we inspire, encourage, educate, and build community for hearing parents of d/Deafchildren. I'm Christy.

**Beth:** And I'm Beth, we're both hearing parents raising d/Deafchildren with cochlear implants, and as always, we wanna remind you that =we believe, as long as you're giving your child love and language, you're doing a great job.

**Christy:** Yes. So in today's episode, we just wanna talk about the team of professionals that work together to make a cochlear implant a success. Because we have been recording episodes about what a cochlear implant is, and we wanna get more into the surgery. But we also want you to understand that it does take a village and all of the weight is not on your shoulders though.

**Christy:** Yeah, but at

**Beth:** the same time, don't forget that as parents, we are also part of this team, big part of it. Without further [00:01:00] ado, let's dive into the different team members and what their roles are along

**Christy:** the way. . So I think the first person that comes to mind that many of us experience early on is the audiologist.

**Christy:** So they are who plays the role in assessing and diagnosing your child's hearing loss. They might be the first person to let you know that your kiddo has a severe or a profound hearing loss, and they are also the provider that helps fit for hearing devices determine which one is a good fit based on

**Christy:** where your needs are and what sounds you're able to access. For the audiologists, they are also who you will see after we get the cochlear implant because they are responsible for mapping it and seeing how changes need to be made over time.

**Christy:** So they are a pretty constant role in your life

**Beth:** next we have the ear, nose, and throat doctor. So this is who performs that thorough evaluation of your child. And if needed, they'll perform that surgery to place the cochlear implant.

**Christy:** When I think of E N T, I just always [00:02:00] thought of getting strep throat and antibiotics, so I thought it was really cool that they do this amazing surgery, so very cool.

**Christy:** And it's interesting how the E N T besides a few of the pre-op appointments to make sure everything looked good and if she was a candidate, the actual surgery itself. And then one more follow up afterward.

**Christy:** She's great. Dr. Moody, if you're in Virginia area, she's in wonderful ENT who performs the surgery at C H K D. But yeah, I think that's pretty much the extent of specialized appointments.

**Beth:** Ours actually did Cooper's Tubes as well, she didn't have to, that's like a minor thing, but it just made me feel better.

**Beth:** And she was totally willing to he had a lot of ear infections when he was younger and that can be a concern more so than with kids without cochlear implants. So just the fact that she had done that surgery made sense for the second one. But yeah, I don't think we've had to see her since then, which was two years ago in June.

**Christy:** Wow. Yeah, it's just one of those things. It's crazy. Time goes by and you're [00:03:00] like , if she saw Charly again, it literally is a whole nother person. But obviously they're very important cuz we wouldn't have anything without what they did. But the next team member who is more of a consistent role depending on what your resources are is a speech language pathologist for the slp. So they work closely with your child from a very young age to help develop listening and spoken language we first met our slp Courtney who is staying home with her baby now, who we miss a lot.

**Christy:** But she was with us since Charly was two months old because early intervention had her provide her services right at the house. And I always joke because until she had the surgery, She wasn't really Charlotte's slp as much as she was mine or just a guide for me. So in that first year, she really taught [00:04:00] me

**Christy:** the skills that Beth and I speak on a lot on these episodes was just mirroring and just how much we speak and she always supported us doing sign

language, so she always really helped me do that sandwich approach where I can say it and then sign it and then say it again, and have that all go together in a way that helps develop that language for Charly.

**Christy:** But it was more so her helping me in the beginning. Now of course Charlotte goes into her speech therapy sessions like a big kid. She just walks in there and I wait in my car and she plays and probably does a lot better cuz I'm not in the room. But yeah definitely huge. They work really closely for us anyhow, with Charlotte's education team to make her goals

**Christy:** figure out what she needs to work on for her i e P and what all that looks like.

**Beth:** Yeah, and that's a good segue into the next member that you'll be interacting with a lot, which is the educational audiologist. And their role is more to support your child in that [00:05:00] educational environment.

**Beth:** Helping manage their hearing technology, advocating for the appropriate accommodations in the classroom. I touched on the Roger mic. That's a big one. Just making sure that they have those Extras that they might need. And then, collaborating and discussing, talking with the other teachers and professionals at the school.

**Christy:** Yes. And that one varies depending on where you live and what your resources are like per state. lot of times for an educational audiologist, it might just be for a school district and not in your school. That's totally common, and I'm not sure in more rural areas how that works I think that an education audiologist plays different roles depending on what school you're at. And I mentioned that Charlotte went to an option school for a few months at the Memphis Oral School for the d/d/Deaf and there. They do have an educational audiologist because their audiologists in-house literally maps and provides that information to the teachers to really adjust those [00:06:00] accommodations.

**Christy:** So this might or might not be a daily role in your life, but definitely still an important part of making sure your kiddo has what they need when I was talking about Charlotte getting her speech language pathologist at two months old, that was through early intervention.

**Christy:** So with early intervention, at least here in Virginia, we had a caseworker who literally, I think she must have called me the afternoon I found out Charlotte was d/d/Deaf. Here in Virginia when your child is diagnosed with a hearing loss, early intervention has a very quick timeline that they want to get

in touch with you and make sure that you have resources that you need and, help you navigate that.

**Christy:** Which, that was such a long time ago because early intervention at age three in Virginia and then we're on our own. But I definitely don't wanna downplay the role that Amanda our caseworker had in what we did. Because [00:07:00] just like Beth and I said, when we were talking about finding out our kids were d/Deaf, and we did not understand all that information in the moment, my early intervention team and Amanda

**Christy:** were who showed up with the pamphlets a week later and were able to say, okay, now that you've processed this, what questions do you have now? Or here's the options for the routes that you need to do.

**Beth:** Another key player, and this is probably honestly like the biggest one for us personally in our district is the teacher for the Deaf or hard of hearing. So they're trained specifically to work with kids with hearing loss and varying degrees.

**Beth:** Ours also is fluent in sign language. And then they often are, in collaboration with the slp, the educational audiologist and the other team members to figure out what you need to tailor for your child's specific needs because your child's needs might be different than another student with cochlear implants even.

**Beth:** So there's just that individualization that needs to happen.

**Christy:** Absolutely. Thank God for good educators and

**Christy:** everybody on the team, like again, this is a [00:08:00] team. We've been fortunate enough, both you and I, to have people who really care about the outcomes that our kids have and they all play a part and they all work together with that.

**Christy:** And then finally you as the parent are certainly a big role. You are your child's first teacher. You're their strongest advocate, and you have to be actively involved in every part of their journey in order to help them have success just like you would with any of your children, no matter what their capabilities were, what their additional needs and circumstances were. You play a huge role. It's just so much more than getting a device implanted.

**Christy:** It's the team, it's the follow through and the work.

**Beth:** Hopefully that was touching on everybody that's involved. It's really is a team effort to make sure that all parts of that are moving and benefiting each other, and each team member really brings their own unique expertise to support you, your child.

**Beth:** And like Christy said, you're a [00:09:00] part of the team too. And I think an important thing to note that we didn't really touch on is if. Assigned a certain person or a certain audiologist or somebody and you just don't jive. Stand up for yourself, stand up for your child and you can switch. In some educational capacities, there might only be one person in the role, but in most medical capacities there's more than one person.

**Beth:** And I think that's important to note.

**Christy:** Follow your intuition I've always felt empowered by my team to make sure Charlotte's doing what she needs to do to make sure she's wearing her implants and

**Christy:** in a way that like I've known since day one, that makes a difference. So if you are somebody that we're talking about who has daycare team who's not a part of the Cochlear implant care team, just making sure that you're empowering them to give the same attention to that child.

**Christy:** You just have to remind people how important it is

**Beth:** I'm leaving [00:10:00] from Mexico for vacation And Coopers staying with my dad and brother, who have never had to twist his batteries off and put them on the charger or put a coil back in. I should take a video of every scenario that might happen because you don't know what you don't know.

**Beth:** And it's like it's second nature to us to fix these things and troubleshoot them, but it's totally foreign to other people..

**Christy:** Hopefully this episode has given you a little bit of a better understanding of the team that is going to be helping with you guys.

**Beth:** And as always, thank you guys for tuning in to love and Language and if you've found this episode helpful, please share it with others, leave a review and don't forget to subscribe so you don't miss any more episodes.

**Christy:** If we miss anybody that is a pivotal part of your cochlear implant team, if you are somebody who's in this journey and far ahead of us, please let

us know so we can talk about that and update things. Cuz I don't know, maybe things look different for the high school years, I don't know.

**Christy:** As always, as long as you are giving your child love and language, you are doing a great job, and we will see you in the next episode.[00:11:00]