

CONNECTICUT



HANDS &
VOICES™

An open letter to new parents:

As a parent, you learn to trust your instincts when it comes to your children. When our son was born, we were given a clean bill of health when we left the hospital. Everything was great; he even passed the newborn hearing screening. He was absolutely perfect. Chubby cheeks, curly hair and big brown eyes! He navigated through infancy and toddlerhood like a champ. But by age three we noticed that our son was missing sounds in his speech. In order to be approved for speech therapy, we had to have a hearing screening. By the end of our first appointment he was diagnosed with a progressive, moderate to severe bi-lateral hearing loss. It's possible that from infancy he may have been compensating for a hearing loss that we did not know he had.

Early intervention for children with hearing loss is critical. As the parents of a new baby, you know your child best. If you are concerned at all about how they are developing, or if you believe that they are missing milestones in development, don't hesitate to talk to your pediatrician and CT Hands & Voices to receive information on early intervention services and family-to-family support in Connecticut.

My son still is absolutely perfect. He is 8 years old, not quite so chubby cheeks, curly hair and big brown eyes! He is funny, loves to read and is a very active little boy. His hearing loss has progressed to profound over the last few years, but that has not stopped him. So remember while you are cuddling with your new, perfect baby, if you ever feel that something is not quite right, don't hesitate to talk to your pediatrician and ask for a hearing test. Trust in yourself; believe that early intervention is a tool to help every child succeed in life.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tammy Breard', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Tammy Breard

Mom of an 8 year old son who has bilateral hearing loss.

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