



HIT Newsletter



Issue 13

February 2021

Hello and welcome to the thirteenth HIT newsletter, a chance to share information and celebrate the achievements of our children and young people.

Parent & Toddler Groups

Please note that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, changes have been made to the following groups:

**Slade Primary School
Baby and Toddler Group
Tonbridge
Time: 1.30-3.15pm**

On hold 2021 due to the current COVID pandemic



**Fleetdown Primary School
Parent and Toddler Group**

On hold 2021 due to the current COVID pandemic

Thanet Little Ears Early Years Group

Currently no information for dates in September.



Sarah Revell: 07850 289542

Dear All

I hope this newsletter finds you well and settled into the lockdown routine for lockdown #3. These continue to be interesting times in supporting our Hearing Impaired learners and their families, I hope you are able to support your learners. I am heartened to hear stories of successful support from those in SRPs and colleges where learners are accessing live lessons with their CSWs and Specialist Teachers who have been able to secure a laptop and Internet access for learners who are based at home currently. Thank you for your hard work in supporting the HI learners across the County, please contact myself or Sue Holder if we can be of any assistance.

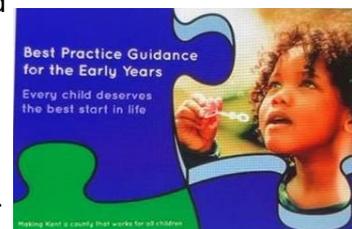


As you can see from the picture above it is not only the COVID-19 restrictions that are impacting on my work at the moment. I hope you have had time to enjoy the snow during your daily exercise.

Take care Jo Clarke.

Exciting news from the Nursery World Awards!

Best Practice Guidance, an early years document produced collaboratively, with colleagues from The Education People; Early Years and Childcare Service, Specialist Teaching & Learning Service, KCC SEND and early years providers, won the award 'Best Professional Book category' at the Awards held virtually on the 4th February. This included pages written by the Sensory Service on sensory need.



Forthcoming HIT meeting

**Revisiting Specialist Skills
Part 1: Monitoring progress in sign.**

Part 2: Audiology – updating key knowledge and skills and looking and new technology.

Contact

hstickings@valence.kent.sch.uk
to book your place

Upcoming Dates

02/03/21	Allocation meeting	Teams
15/03/21	HIT Meeting	Teams
21/04/21	Allocation meeting	Teams
17/05/21	Allocation meeting	Teams



Please remember to share your stories and news about your work with HI children and young people for the next newsletter. All submissions are welcome, please send them to:

hstickings@valence.kent.sch.uk



My Cochlear Implant Journey

Hello, my name is Rebecca Claytor, I'm in Year 10 and I am a deaf student.

What is Deaf? Deaf is used to describe or identify anyone who has a hearing problem.

This is my story about growing up with deafness and my cochlear implant journey.



Growing Up

There were no complications when I was born, I was a healthy and happy baby. Back then they didn't do hearing checks for the babies which is why they didn't find out about my deafness sooner. Months later my family started to notice there was something wrong with me, I was screaming, crying and didn't respond to my family calling to me. My family took me to the doctor who did a hearing test which I passed. I still continued ignoring people. So my nan took me for another hearing test and again they said I passed! My nan didn't believe this was right so she took me to a different doctor and as soon as he saw me he knew I was deaf. I did another hearing test and failed. I was diagnosed deaf at 18 months old. They couldn't find the cause of my deafness and still now they don't know but we think it might be linked to my dad's side of the family.

I was provided hearing aids at 2 years old and I obviously hated it but over time I got used to the hearing aids. I had hearing aids for 12 years, the age from 2 to 14 years old. My deafness was difficult for my family as I was the only deaf person in my whole hearing family.

At the age 13 I started to realise that my hearing was getting worse and the hearing aids were not helping me anymore. As my hearing was decreasing, I felt isolated and very sad. It also affected my social life, my confidence and it was a big struggle for me to communicate with everyone.

The Day My Life Changed Forever

Around Summer 2020 after lots of assessments and scans at St Thomas's hospital in London they decided that I needed cochlear implants, I had no useful hearing left that the operation could damage. When I found out I was getting cochlear implants I was speechless, excited and scared.

On 22nd October 2020, the big day! The day of my surgery. I stayed in London the night before the surgery because I had to get to the hospital by 7:30am the next day. On the day, we walked to the Evelina Children's Hospital. I didn't have my surgery until 11am but before that I had to prepare for it. The surgery took 6 hours because I was having 2 cochlear implants.

After the surgery I woke up feeling tired, in awful pain and felt sick. The next day I went home.

On the 24th November 2020 a month later, and a month with hearing nothing at all, I returned to St. Thomas' Hospital to have my cochlear implants switched on! I was very nervous on that day, I was even more nervous than on my surgery day. I think I was nervous because I was scared of how I would be able to hear, it was a big decision that I couldn't change back.

After I had my cochlear implants switched on everything sounded very different and everyone's voice sounded like Alvin and the chipmunks. I'm still getting used to the sounds with them and have more appointments to go to yet. I can't tell you how I feel with them as it's still the early days but I do feel like I made the right decision.

Thank you for reading my story and I hoped you liked my journey of getting Cochlear Implants. Rebecca Claytor

