

The Ear Foundation

hearing and communicating in a technological era



MESSAGE FROM SUE ARCHBOLD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE EAR FOUNDATION

We at The Ear Foundation are absolutely delighted that Destiny of a Child is planning a further wonderful initiative to support deaf children. Since our first links with Destiny of a Child in 2003 we have been amazed by the enthusiasm and commitment of Annie and her team in all that they do. Deafness in a child is often not fully understood – it is an invisible handicap but one which has a huge impact on a child's development of communication and language, making it very difficult for them to learn to read and write when they begin school. They very often leave school not only with great communication difficulties with hearing people, but with very low attainments and hence poor employment chances.

We now have exciting technology which has transformed the opportunities for deaf children – cochlear implantation. Cochlear implants permit deaf children with appropriate training to hear, learn to speak and go to mainstream schools with their brothers and sisters and enjoy the same opportunities.

Cochlear implants were brought to the UK by The Ear Foundation in 1989 and now many deaf children have cochlear implants. However, the implants do not provide *normal* hearing and the children and their families and teachers need help and training to make sure the hearing provided by the implant is used effectively. This is where The Ear Foundation comes in. We provide an essential bridge between the clinics where this great technology is implanted by major operation – and home and school where can be used everyday. We do this by providing support and training to children and their families, educational programmes for schools, and research to make sure that the technology is further developed.

The support of Destiny of a Child has been crucial to us in our work. They have supported us in making our work and resources available to many who otherwise would not be able to benefit. We need their and your help to enable us to ensure all deaf children have the chance to hear the conversation of their families, to speak and, most importantly, fully reach their potential.

We live in the most exciting times for deaf children – with the best opportunities ever –but we need help to make the most of them. We wish you all great success and camaraderie with 'Climbing for Children' on Mount Kilimanjaro.

Sue Archbold
Chief Executive
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Members of Cochlear Implant European and UK User Groups

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