



PHOENIX
CHILDREN'S

COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROGRAM

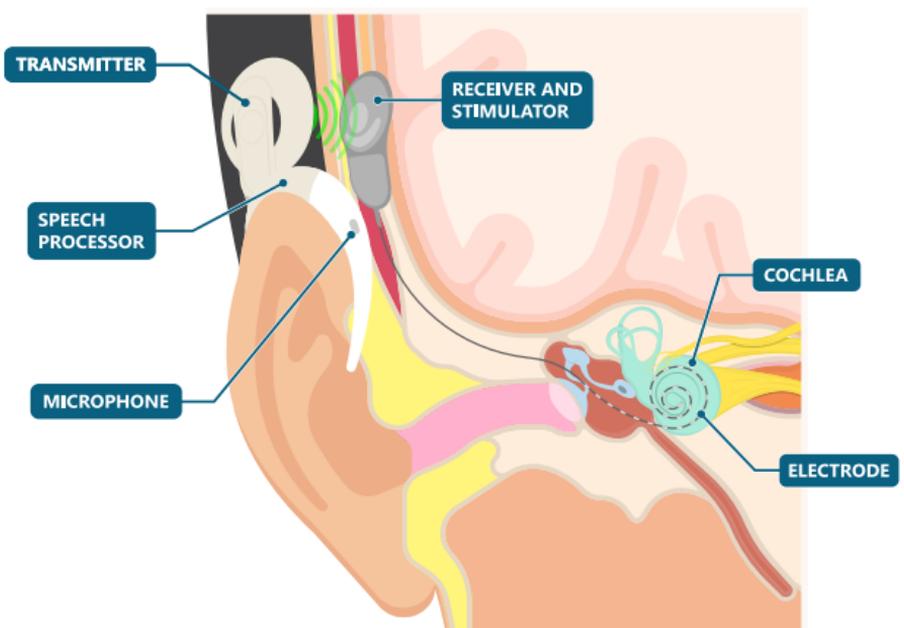
Offering hope for children with
hearing loss and their families

A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

Today, Families have more options than ever before when it comes to treating hearing loss in infants and children.

Working collaboratively, our team and the family will discuss a wide range of listening devices to address hearing loss.

A cochlear implant is an electronic device that is implanted into the cochlea to regain a sense of sound. It is different from a hearing aid, which makes sounds louder and benefits children with some hearing ability. A cochlear implant helps a person when hearing aids are no longer effective, or with little or no hearing. It allows the person to have a sensation of sound, and in young children can help acquire speech, language, and social interactions.



THE JOURNEY

Hearing is critical for auditory awareness and the development of oral speech and language skills. Cochlear implantation may give children to access sound for safety, ability to hear and understand the words that are said to them, and the potential to be a verbal communicator. Outcomes with cochlear implants are dependent on several factors including: degree of hearing loss, duration of hearing loss, etiology/cause of hearing loss, length of hearing aid use, family and educational support, and language skills of the child prior to implantation.

The cochlear implant process is a journey that our CI team will guide you through. It will require appointments with the various team specialists before implantation surgery as well as follow up appointments and therapy visits after the surgery. Cochlear implants are a lifelong commitment for the child and family. We are here to support and prepare you for this commitment. Over the next 6-12 months your child will need the following:

- Consultation and follow-up with the CI surgeon
- Comprehensive audiological evaluation (may include a brain-stem auditory evoked response (BAER) study)
- Hearing aid trial period
- MRI/CT scan to evaluate cranial nerves and bone for surgical purposes
- Speech/language evaluation (pre and post)
- Psychosocial evaluation (pre/post)
- Possible genetics consultation
- Possible vision referral

TOTAL COMMUNICATION APPROACH

A total communication approach makes language accessible for all children, regardless of their current skill level. Before and after receiving a cochlear implant, children will be exposed to a variety of communication modalities (such as spoken language, American Sign Language, augmentative and alternative communication [AAC] device) by our certified speech-language pathologist. Our goal is to provide families the tools necessary to understand their child's communication and make an informed choice about language intervention. This approach give each child the power to communicate using a variety of communication strategies that is tailored to their skills and abilities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phoenix Children's Hospital

1919 E. Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016

ENT

602-933-3277

Audiology

602-933-0905

Speech

602-933-0980 (Option 3)

Psychology

602-933-0414

MEET THE TEAM

The Cochlear Implant Program at Phoenix Children's Hospital is a multidisciplinary team. We work with families throughout the Southwest to coordinate comprehensive, child centered care.

OTOLARYNGOLOGIST/ENT

Surgeon who completes the medical evaluation, orders tests, and determines medical candidacy for cochlear implants. They provide ongoing otologic care throughout the process. They perform the cochlear implant surgery.

AUDIOLOGIST

Specialist who conducts the tests to determine the type and severity of the hearing loss. They fit the hearing aids and assess whether or not the devices provide adequate benefit. They also guide the family through the selection of the cochlear implant device and program the external processor following the surgery.

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

Specialist who assesses speech/language skills before the CI surgery. They will also work extensively with your child after the surgery to teach proper listening skills as well as work on language development.

PSYCHOLOGIST

Specialist who provides family support throughout the cochlear implant process. They offer opportunities to discuss concerns, questions, and outcome expectations of implantation to help ensure there is adequate family support, motivation, and commitment to proceed with surgery. Along with other team members, they assess your child's cognitive functioning and general development. For older children, the psychologist can help prepare the child for what to expect during surgery and post-implantation rehabilitation. Long term, this specialist is available to families to guide appropriate educational programming, and help the child and family explore their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors.

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND PHOENIX CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CAMPUS



Otolaryngology/ENT

Rosenberg Building



Audiology/Psychology

Ambulatory Building



Speech Pathology

East Building

