



Teenagers and their cochlear implants: being deaf differently?

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Over the past twenty years, cochlear implantation has become routine provision for profoundly deaf children throughout the developed world. Earlier implantation has led to improved spoken language skills, improved educational attainments and more deaf young people attending mainstream schools. Early expectations of some were that those who had cochlear implants early in life would need no support in the teenage years and function fully in the hearing world. Others were concerned that they would experience serious mental health problems in adolescence.

This presentation will report current research about what we know of the progress of these young people in high school, of what they see as their challenges and what support they need in the long-term as they enter higher education and the world of work.

This presentation will explore what we know of:

- Long term outcomes in teenagers
- The educational support available and needed for teenagers and their varied experiences
- Communication issues for teenagers
- Teenagers' views of their experience of implantation
- Issues for those with implants in higher education
- Issues for those entering the world of work

The presentation will also consider what the implications are of what we know for the educational and social/emotional support required in adolescence, and in the transition into further education and adulthood.

Biography

Sue Archbold was the teacher of the deaf of the first child in the UK to have a cochlear implant. She then helped establish The Ear Foundation to fund the first paediatric cochlear implants in the UK, and went on to co-ordinate the Nottingham Paediatric Cochlear Implant Programme from its inception in 1989 until 2004. There she developed methods of assessing and monitoring young children for implantation and a database to manage a cochlear implant programme.

She has published widely on the education of deaf children and on outcomes from implantation, and recently received her doctorate from the University of Nijmegen, cum laude, on the subject of Deaf Education: changed by cochlear implantation?

She is now Chief Executive of The Ear Foundation, leading its programme of support, information, education and research to ensure the maximum benefit from the latest hearing technologies at home, school and work.

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Members of Cochlear Implant European and UK User Groups

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