

TRANSCRIPT: Early intervention

We've always faced the two sets of special needs 'cause Harvey's profoundly deaf and he's got cerebral palsy affecting all four limbs, so each special need has a different set of interventions.

If I do the the cerebral palsy first, he had a lot of physio going twice a week to various different bodies and those sessions focused on what he could do, not what he couldn't do and, obviously, they involved putting him in seating that was going to be practical for us to push him round in and an electric wheelchair when he got older.

The first diagnosis was that Harvey had hearing problems and so he wore hearing aids but we very quickly found out they were ineffective and that Harvey really wasn't hearing anything at all, and at two-and-a-half he had a test and we were told he couldn't hear a jumbo jet going over his head. So they very, very quickly at Great Ormond Street submitted an application for a cochlea implant and he was implanted at three years two months and he adjusted really quickly and really well to that. And I remember the day they knocked on the table and he heard his first sound and that was amazing really.

The Cochlea Department at Great Ormond Street is superb. I can pick up the phone and talk to them. They are all really, really aware of Harvey. They're very friendly, very approachable and appointments are pretty prompt. They really do manage your expectations. And Harvey wasn't really an easy or obvious choice to implant and there was no guarantee it was going to be a success really, so for them to offer to implant Harvey and for it to be done so quickly, we were extremely grateful. I've got nothing but praise for them really.