



# Embracing Everything

A MinneStory™

Ahavah and Jason describe how difficult it was to share the news of their son's severe-profound hearing loss shortly after he was born. And how they embrace everything about Elijah, finding ways to celebrate his hearing loss.



**Ahavah:** My cousin had a bridal shower, and so I went, and I remember I brought Elijah with me, and they were holding him, and I remember telling them that he was deaf, and you could see the heartbreak, and I know they were trying to comfort me, but it's like ya know once you get that silence after ya tell somebody it's like ya just, ya wanna break down. Ya know It's not the fact that my child has a hearing loss, but it's the reaction of what people give you that is really hard, like watching them feel the heartbreak that you just felt earlier, and it's like you have to almost relive that heartbreak every time you tell somebody. And so I remember after I told (not sure what she's saying here) told you that we should just announce it all on Facebook and just get it over with, 'cause I felt like I could not handle telling people individually any more, 'cause it was just too hard.

**Jason:** What was it like announcing it on Facebook then?

**Ahavah:** I cried. I think I cried when I wrote it out. I mean it felt good. You're not really suppose to announce that kind of news on Facebook, but it just, it felt like I didn't have to, to hide anything or ya know, it felt like I could get it out in the open and it was done.

**Jason:** What was it like when you went to Elijah's audiology appointment for his hearing aids, and they put it on?

**Ahavah:** I don't think I was expecting much, because they told us he had, ya know, severe, profound hearing loss, and that he's not gonna get a whole lot of speech from it, and so I didn't know what to expect from it. So, I remember talking, and I didn't realize that he was blinking at my voice until maybe the second or third blink, and I was like "Oh wow, you're blinking." And I just remember thinking, "Wow, he can hear me now." It was just the coolest feeling ever. It was like an exciting moment. I knew it wasn't gonna help him produce speech, but it's just something I felt like I can, ya know if he can hear our voices, he can use it for environmental awareness and just, and what not. It was just really nice to be able to experience that moment and see him react and actually hear us for the first time was really cool. How has this changed you?

**Jason:** Uhm, I think it makes me more of an independent person and more of a stronger person. Having a newborn and making these kind of decisions, I feel like I'm more independent and I trust myself more, as opposed to thinking about what other people will think and what other people will say or relying on other people. I feel a lot more independent now.

**Ahavah:** I think for me it's changed me a lot of ways. Ya know I was always worried about like Elijah not...I know like back then you were suppose to hide your hearing aids, it was suppose to be discreet, and now ya know kids are getting colorful hearing aids, and like I really wanted to just embrace everything about him: his hearing loss, his hearing devices, ya know his cochlear implant now. Ya know I decorate it with colorful tape and put little charms on there, and it's just made me this person that like just now, I don't know, I always wanna just like embrace everything about him, and I want him to feel special.

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