British Cochlear Implant Group

BRITISH ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

# Cochlear Implant Conversation
# Paediatric Top Tips

## Opening the conversation

- "Has anyone talked to you about cochlear implants before?"
- "What do you know about implants already?"

## Explaining the results

- "When we see results like these, we usually recommend speaking with a cochlear implant team so families understand all the available options."
- "This doesn't mean your child definitely needs an implant, but it does mean it is worth finding out more."

## Reassuring about referral

- "Would you be open to learning more about cochlear implants so that you know all of the options for your child?"
- "You don't have to decide anything today."
- "Meeting the implant team doesn't mean your child will definitely have an implant. It's an opportunity to gather information and ask questions."
- "We want to make sure we're not missing an opportunity that could help your child's communication development."
- "The goal is to give your child the best possible access to communication during the years when speech, language and learning are developing."

## Information and support

- "Would you like to take this leaflet to have a look through (at home or with family)"
- "Would you like to talk to a family who chose a cochlear implant for their child?"
- "Have you looked at the NDCS information about CI?"

## "No thanks" "We'd like to think about it"

- Ask with curiosity, no judgment, show you care about what is stopping them
- "Is there something that's putting you off?"
- "Learning more now doesn't stop you taking more time to decide later."

*Be honest; tell them you are not an expert in this area of Audiology, answer the questions you can and advise them that the implant team will answer the rest.*

*- Dr Ann-Marie Dickinson*

(British Academy of Audiology, 2021)

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## Concerns about surgery

- "Most parents feel nervous when surgery is mentioned."
- “Have you, or anyone you know, ever had surgery before?" - Make it feel familiar by comparing to well-known operations."
- "Nobody is asking you to agree to surgery, only to learn more about whether it might help your child."

## Talking to other families

- "Would you like me to put you in touch with another family who has been in your position and gone for an assessment?"
- "Talking to other families can really help."

## “I don’t think that would work for my child”

- "Every child is different, which is exactly why the assessment is so important."
- "The implant team can give you a much clearer idea of what benefit might be expected for your child."

## “My child seems to be managing”

- "It's wonderful that your child is doing well in many situations."
- "The question is whether they are having to work much harder than other children to hear and learn."
- "Sometimes the challenges become more noticeable as listening, language and educational demands increase."
- "One thing we do know is that access to sound during childhood is important for speech and language development."
- "Earlier access to sound can mean better speech and language development."

## “I don’t want my child to be different”

- "Lots of parents worry about that."
- "Many children with cochlear implants go to mainstream school and do the same activities as other children."

## “We've heard negative things online”

- "There are many different experiences shared online, and not all of them will be relevant to your child's situation."
- "Sometimes it helps to discuss any information you've seen with the implant team so you can understand what applies to your child."