Hearing Aid and Cochlear Implant bling for all ages

Would you like hearing aids with a bling? For younger children, various cartoon character covers are available for the hearing aid/cochlear implant processor ranging from Toy Story to Spiderman to Minecraft to suit children of all ages. Lugs and charms can be purchased online through various retailers including www.mylugs.co.uk/ or www.hayleighscherishedcharms.com.

For older children (especially girls), there are lots of ways to accessorise your hearing aid with jewellery!

If you prefer a DIY option, your child can always ‘bling’ up their hearing aid with vinyl stickers and beads. Just be careful not to cover the microphone or restrict the tubing!

Yes! We are still recruiting!

Do you want to contribute to research that will benefit families like yourselves?

The **Infant Discrimination and Early Acquisition of Language (IDEAL) study** is looking for infants in NSW and VIC under 12 months old who have hearing aids. This study assesses your child’s ability to discriminate between speech sounds. This ability underpins development of spoken language. If you are interested, or know of someone who may be interested, please contact Dr Cara Wong at cara.wong@nal.gov.au.

The **Children with Unilateral Hearing Loss (CUHL) study** is currently recruiting infants in NSW, VIC and QLD diagnosed with unilateral hearing loss who are under 12 months of age. Once a participant in this study, we will closely monitor your child’s speech, language and hearing. If you’d like to learn more about this study, please send an email to: cuhl@nal.gov.au.

Recruiting soon: **Cognition, Language and Social Skills (CLASS) project**

This sub-study of the LOCHI project will be looking at whether aspects of social cognition e.g. emotion recognition, behaviour regulation, and the ability to understand other’s perspectives, is related to language and psychosocial outcomes in children with hearing loss. We will be recruiting children who have completed their LOCHI 9-year assessment who live in the Sydney metro area (or are willing to travel to the Australian Hearing Hub for testing). Please contact Dr Cara Wong at cara.wong@nal.gov.au if you are interested in participating.

Have you liked us on facebook yet?

A great place to keep in touch with the LOCHI researchers and share your ideas with other LOCHI families. Just search for ‘Lochi study’ on facebook.
Online Social Participation, Social Capital and Literacy of Adolescents with Hearing Loss

As children grow up, their usage of online social media also increases. In collaboration with the Victorian Deaf Education Institute (VDEI), we’ve conducted a pilot study to see if there is a relationship between their online social activities and literacy skills.

The results have recently been accepted for publication in the Deafness & Education International Journal and below is an overview of the findings.

The study aimed to look at whether there is a link between social capital and self-esteem, psychological wellbeing and academic achievement of adolescents with hearing loss. The pilot study consisted of an online questionnaire looking at internet and social media usage, bonding and bridging social capital in online/offline settings, and literacy.

Results: There was a relationship indicating that the internet and social media usage assists teenagers to expand worldviews and express their opinions. However, there was no relationship between internet usage and bonding, which indicates that the internet still cannot be a substitute for face-to-face interactions for social support.

However, the link between social capital and literacy could not be determined as there was not enough information. This is why we have invited the LOCHI children to participate in a similar study.

Up for grabs is an ipad mini OR a Westfield $300 gift voucher!

If you are in the LOCHI study, are 11 years old or over and interested in participating in this new online survey please email: socialcapital@nal.gov.au for the link to the survey. There is a parent and child component of the survey, so make sure you complete both to be in the prize draw! Get in quickly before the survey closes on: 15 June 2016!

We’d like to extend a big THANK YOU to all our families participating in all of the paediatric studies that are currently running. We especially would like to thank all of our LOCHI participants and their families – the findings of the LOCHI study have been instrumental in improving clinical management of children with hearing loss for optimising outcomes, both in Australia and worldwide.

To disseminate the information widely, the LOCHI team is presenting a series of 7 one-hour online lectures through support from RIDBC and Cochlear Ltd. Each lecture will be recorded and all registrations will receive a link to the recording 7-10 days after each seminar.

Below are the lecture topics:
1. Parents’ Journey from Diagnosis to Intervention of Children with Hearing Loss
2. Predicting speech, language, and functional outcomes of 5-year-old children with hearing loss: findings from a population study
3. Risk and Protective Factors of Psychosocial Development of 5-year-old Children with Hearing Loss: Evidence from the LOCHI study
4. The audiological journey and effectiveness of hearing aids for infants with auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder (ANSD)
5. Predicting speech perception of 5-year-old children with sensorineural hearing loss (SNHL) or auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder (ANSD) in the LOCHI study
6. Predicting language and speech outcomes of 5-year-old children with hearing loss and additional disabilities
7. Effectiveness of early intervention for improving outcomes of children with hearing loss: findings of the LOCHI study

For more information about the HOPE series and to register to attend the webinar, please go to: http://www.ridbc.org.au/renwick/cpe-event/lochi-series