



LSL Life - Maggie

- Maggie: *Claire, what was your favorite part of the day?*
- Claire: *Like, who did I play with?*
- Maggie: *Yeah.*
- Claire: *I played with Gavin and Kylie.*
- Hank: *Hank, do you know how to get down?*
- Maggie: *You don't know how to get down.*
- Hank: *I do, but you guys are going here. Now I can't get down.*
- Maggie: *I don't know what I want to be when I grow up, but some of the things on my list are being a veterinarian because I love pets, and being a doctor because I like helping people.*
- Dad: *Maggie's a lover of life, and she has got a good soul. She's kind in all the right ways that just make you proud as a parent.*
- Mom: *Maggie's just up for anything, and she's extremely happy. She loves learning new things. Lately she's been reading to Claire and Hank.*
- Maggie: *Here's how a book work: Everything the words say the person reading it has to say. That's the deal. That's the rule.*
- Mom: *She's a fourth grader, and she's doing so well in school.*
- Maggie: *This is my desk. And this is my cubby. Here's my math book. My favorite subject is math because it's really challenging, but a lot of fun, and I get it. This is my teacher, Ms. Kositzsky.*
- Ms. Kositzsky: *I love Maggie in my room because she always makes everything fun, and she's not afraid of anything.*

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- Mom: When we first learned about Maggie's hearing loss, it was extremely frightening to think about what her future would hold.
- Dad: I felt helpless because I wasn't educated. I didn't know what the options were. I knew that I had to put Maggie in the best situation possible, and at the same time be very comforting to my wife, because I knew that there was going to be a big emotional side to her as well. So I had a lot of fears. How was I going to communicate? Was I going to have to learn new things? Was this child going to miss out on experiences because they couldn't hear things?
- Dad: Looking back on that now, the fears that I had were all internal fears about me. We're not going to be able to share these moments with her, or she's not going to be able to laugh at my hysterical jokes, or all these things because she can't hear me. But knowing what we know now, it's like, why would I ever think that?
- Mom: Once we found out Listening and Spoken Language was a possibility, Dad and I knew that that's the route we wanted to take. I'm not saying that time was easy, but that decision was very easy.
- Dad: So there was no second guessing. It was moving very swiftly and quickly, because I wanted my child to be able to hear, and I wanted my child to be able to speak.
- Maggie: *There's too much pink around it, see? Like these things.*
- Janet: *What's a color you have not ... Maybe green?*
- Maggie: *Eh...*
- Speaker 9: *What about blue?*
- Maggie: *Yeah, I'll do blue. Janet, look at her teeth.*
- Mom: She is such a social little kid. Anything her friends are doing, she's up for. She loves, like I said, to try new things, so she

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is a joiner. So the band was just another example of that. "Oh, my friend's playing the clarinet, so I'm going to play the flute." So, she's all about it.

Maggie: The flute is one of the hardest instruments. And I really think I make great sounds doing the flute.

Speaker 10: *Everybody, show me your best posture, and play your first note. [music] Should be first and second. Some of you are going too high.*

Maggie: It's really challenging, but I love it. I like challenges a lot because most people want to just be laid back and do whatever, but I like to step up and do a lot more stuff that I can do.

Dad: She loves playing all different sports, softball to basketball, soccer and track, and there's really nothing that she doesn't get to do because of her hearing loss.

Dad: My dream for Maggie is that she continues to be a quality person.

Maggie: It's just that she lives up to her potential, and is happy, and contributes to this earth.

Dad: If I could go back and relive those moments in the chaos of learning that we have a child with a hearing disability, I would tell myself to stay calm and try to understand the big picture more. And everything's going to be okay. The hearing loss isn't going to define who Maggie is. It's an obstacle, but she's done a phenomenal job of overcoming that obstacle.