



LSL Life – Sophie

Sophie's Mother: *Good morning, can you grab the milk please?*

Sophie: *Good morning, Mama.*

Sophie's Mother: *All right.*

Sophie's Mother: We have two daughters, Sophie and Olivia.

Sophie's Father: Olivia is eight and has typical hearing. Sophie is 12. She has bilateral microtia and is hard of hearing.

Sophie's Mother: *Did you sleep well?*

Sophie: *Sort of.*

Sophie's Mother: *Good.*

Sophie's Mother: Typical summer morning would be just lazy. We have breakfast, then we have like an hour of reading or two. And then we have some chores.

Sophie's Mother: Deafness has never defined who Sophie is. This child was born to listen. There is just no other way to explain it.

Sophie: *You have to keep your handles straight and gradually turn like this, okay?*

Sophie: I love summer because I get to ride my bike, and I get to swim, and I get to knit. And then I like playing with my dog in the backyard.

Sophie: *Go get it!*

Sophie: I love knitting, and right now, I am trying to make a collar for my dog. This would be her winter collar. I have messed up a few times, probably added a stitch and it's a little loose, but for a beginner I think it's pretty good.

- Sophie's Mother: Today we are going to meet up with her friends from school. We're going to go roller skating 'cause they absolutely love that.
- Sophie: I got my first pair when I was six, and I could roller skate all day if it was up to me. [Sounds of roller skates on the hard wood]
- Sophie: I like zooming around everyone and racing people. I'm a very competitive person, so I'm always like, "Come on, let's race! Now!"
- Sophie's Father: From day one, it's all been a surprise with Sophie. I had no idea what to expect and what to do.
- Sophie's Mother: I was just so happy that she was finally here, and she was a beautiful baby. I don't think I realized the impact of the hearing loss until I brought her home and wondered how she was going to be able to hear me. How was she going to hear me when I told her that I loved her? Or how was she going to hear when I was singing to her? And then I panicked.
- Sophie's Mother: I don't think the doctor that brought her into the world was very familiar with her condition. We were told to wait until Sophie was of school age to do something about the hearing loss. Well, I was a kindergarten teacher for eleven years, and I have a degree in early childhood. So I know that during the first three years of children's lives, that's where you make connections, that's where you develop the brain.
- Sophie's Mother: It would have been detrimental for Sophie. She would not be who she is today if we had waited that long. So we started Googling.
- Sophie's Mother: She was amplified for the first time when she was four months.
- Sophie's Father: It really changed her world and our world, and you could see results immediately. She could hear us.

- Sophie's Mother: The expression on her little face when you know, she had the hearing aids on and she heard us talking to her and the way she turned her head and the way she smiled and the way we were all crying. It was the beginning of the rest of our lives.
- Sophie: [Laughter]
- Waitress: *Do you know what you're having, hun?*
- Sophie: *Yes, I would like the one fourth of a pound burger with cheese and mayo.*
- Sophie: After I go roller skating, we usually go eat somewhere. I am obsessed with Oreos, so my favorite milkshake is the Oreo milkshake. I get those all the time. [Laughter]
- Sophie: *I wonder who will get the jokers.*
- Sophie's Father: *War!*
- Family: *Oooh!!*
- Sophie's Mother: Everything with Sophie after we chose Listening and Spoken Language has been amazing.
- Sophie: I feel very grateful because if they had chosen any other thing, I wouldn't be where I am today.