

## LSL Life – Genesis

Genesis: *Hi, my name is Genesis. I'm going to be showing you my art room. Over here is my desk. This is where I keep all my markers, pencils, highlighters, and stuff. And this is mine when I was a baby. My sister says that I was smaller than this. This was big on me, so just a fun fact.*

Genesis' Mother: I have two daughters. Indali is sixteen. She is typical hearing. And I have Genesis, who is eleven, who was diagnosed with severe to profound hearing loss bilateral, which means both ears. Genesis has a very good spirit. She's just very loving. Her heart is always on her sleeve. Right from the start, Genesis always got the same diagnosis: severe to profound deaf. I thought I did something wrong you know, as a parent. The first time I visited an ear doctor, he did an ABR exam, he immediately told me, "She is a candidate for a cochlear implant," and this was new, obviously, for me. They told me we had two simple choices which was either going the route of being nonverbal and going through sign language, or hearing and spoken language and receiving the technology.

Genesis' Mother: I was so fearful, and I wanted a miracle. I was just letting more time go by and canceling the surgery, from the point of being ten months to almost turning three. So many surgeries being canceled. When I finally did decide to go through the surgery was because I realized that my idea of a miracle is not the only idea of a miracle. The miracle was having the surgery. And now you can't get her to stop talking. She's just talking and talking and talking and she has opinions, and she's been doing really well ever since.

Genesis: *Over here, I have my painting, Northern Lights, and these are the forests. I learned this kind of painting from my teacher. She told me to get three colors, get a canvas, and spread it all over it. It just drips down and it's already art. It's really cool because even though it's messy, it still looks*

*good. I like doing art because you get to express your feelings on it. Or sometimes you just want to do it for fun.*

Genesis: I like reading because you're in a whole different world when you read. It's like you get to be somebody else but you know who you are, you know? I like to go to the library because like, if you're looking for a book that you really want to read, you get to go through the pages and see if you want that book or not. And when you finish it, sometimes I wish I could read more of it. [Computer beeps and dings]

Genesis: *That looks good.*

Indali: *Hi.*

Cashier: *Hi.*

Indali: *Um, I'll have the ham and egg muffin.*

Cashier: *Ham and egg muffin?*

Indali: *Yes.*

Cashier: *Very good.*

Genesis: *I want a hot chocolate.*

Cashier: *Hot chocolate as well?*

Genesis: *Yes. What can I get?*

Indali: *Do you want the ham and egg muffin?*

Genesis: *Yeah, I could get that.*

Genesis' Mother: *Can you cut me a little piece, Genesis?*

Genesis: *Yeah.*

Genesis' Mother: When I first discovered that Genesis had the option of speaking and hearing, I was very undecided, because I

didn't know what the right thing was. Wait for a miracle? Wait on doing something different? Or getting her that opportunity to access sound? And so, I'm glad that we did this, and grateful.

Genesis: I'm so blessed. I am able to speak, sing, chat. It's amazing.

Genesis' Mother: Listening and Spoken Language was our goal, and we achieved it. And so I feel that this was our miracle.