



LSL Life – Morgan and Katie

Mom: I wanted my children to be independent, to know that I have voice, my voice can be heard, to have their own hopes and dreams and not be hindered by anything. But when you get that hearing loss diagnosis, that's all there is.

Dad: Morgan was born profoundly deaf, so when we found out that Katie was deaf, you know your whole stomach just drops.

Mom: Your whole world just ...

Dad: What?

Mom: And so then you have to mourn what was, make peace with the new reality, and then you got to figure it out.

Dad: We didn't want our kids to grow up thinking they were any different, so we really didn't treat them as if they were deaf, because with the implant, they can hear.

Mom: So when Morgan was in second grade, they were reading a Helen Keller book in class. And she walked up to me and she said, "Mom, what is this word 'deaf'?" And I went, "Huh?" "What is this word?" And I said, "Oh, 'deaf'." She goes, "What is that?" And I said, that's when someone can't hear. "What?" And I said, "Morgan ..." And she went, "Oh." We have never, ever said to them, "You cannot do this," or, "Don't try this because of your hearing." Katie, probably about 95% of her friends don't even know. They have no idea.

Morgan: I'm Morgan.

Katie: I'm Katie.

Morgan: She gets me. She gets my humor.

Katie: We tell each other everything.

Morgan: My parents have taught me that I can be the best version of who I want to be.

Katie: I never really felt like I couldn't do anything because of who I am or my disability.

Mom: They took swimming lessons. Morgan went sky-diving.

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- Katie: We go out to the lake. We go tubing. That's like our favorite part.
- Morgan: I've traveled to Germany, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and France.
- Mom: Morgan has blown us away academically.
- Morgan: I finished my high school career with a 4.0 GPA. I took four AP classes. I graduated in the top 10% in a class of 600 students, and I'm the only one with hearing loss.
- Mom: Katie just finished junior high. She'll be going into high school.
- Katie: I'm excited to make more friends and meet new people.
- Dad: She's done really well in the classroom. She takes advanced classes and has been invited to several STEM programs.
- Morgan: I love soccer because I truly enjoy doing it, and I feel like I'm good at it. It's just my passion.
- Dad: She's been a starter and Letterman, and she was 6A all-state player this year.
- Mom: Morgan will be attending Oklahoma Baptist University in the fall. She's going to be playing soccer, and she got into the honors program.
- Morgan: My goal is to major in nursing and to travel overseas and help people who are less fortunate.
- Katie: I started playing tennis about a year ago, and I made the high school tennis team, and I'm really proud of that. No one else in my family really plays it, so it's something kind of my own.
- Mom: I think the biggest surprise for me is that I don't think about it anymore.
Dad: There's a fear that you're not going to be able to sit and have a conversation with your child, they're not going to be able to hear some of the things that go on in life, they're going to miss all of that. And you get moments where you step back and you're kind of there in the room, but you're watching it and you're going, "Wow!"
- Mom: None of this would have been possible to the extent that they have succeeded without Listening and Spoken Language. We would do it all over again. We would. Every single one of those dreams that I've had or

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hopes, they all came true. It was a different path to get there, but it all came true.