

Leo gets a cochlear implant



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Illustrated by: Jörg / l'un & l'autre

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Leo felt frustrated. He couldn't hear the teacher well in class, even with his hearing aids.

It was also getting hard to hear what his friends said during lunch or playtime.



Leo's parents decided it was time to visit the audiologist again. "Hello, Leo! It's great to see you again. Let's check your hearing to see how we can help you hear better," said the audiologist.

"You're a big lion now. So every time you hear a sound, I want you to raise your hand, okay?"



After the test, the audiologist talked to Leo and his parents.

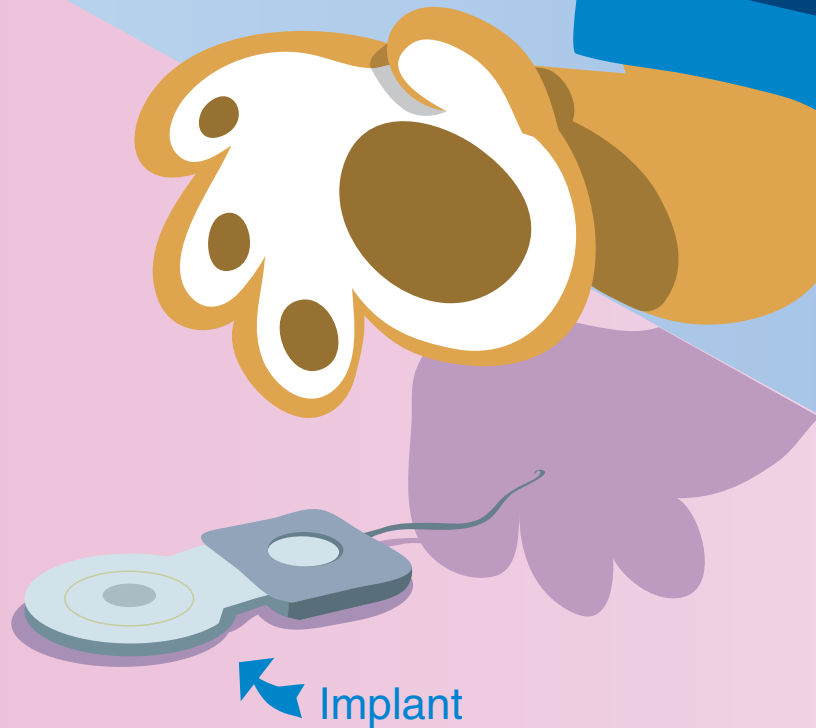
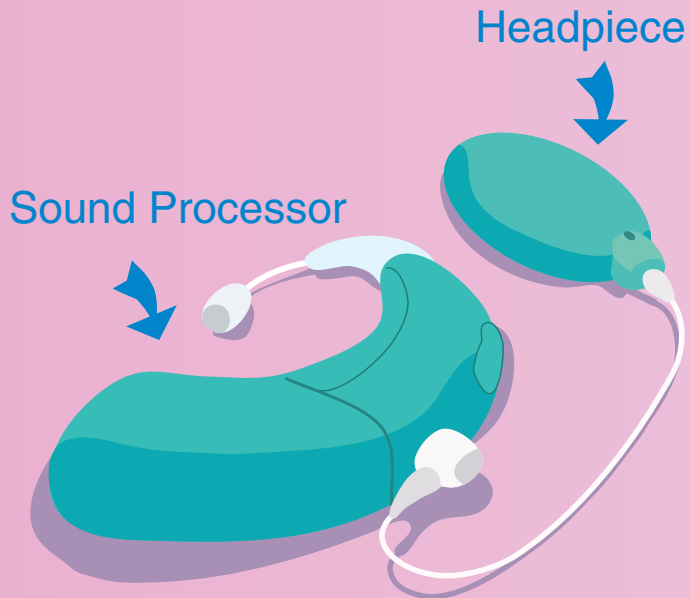
“Leo’s hearing has dropped in his right ear. That’s why his hearing aid isn’t strong enough for him anymore.”

“I think a cochlear implant might help him hear better.”

“What’s a cochlear implant?” Leo asked.



“A cochlear implant has different parts. The sound processor is what you wear on your ear, just like your hearing aid. The headpiece goes on your head. And the implant is what the doctor puts into your ear. Together, they help you hear!”



Leo's family went to see Dr. Elephant. "To get a cochlear implant, we have to go to the hospital for a surgery," Dr. Elephant said. "You will take a short nap at the hospital.

While you're sleeping, I will make a small cut behind your ear and put in the implant. It will all be done when you wake up. The implant will stay in your ear for many, many years."



After some more tests, Dr. Elephant said Leo would do very well with a cochlear implant. They scheduled Leo's surgery to take place in a few weeks.

The audiologist let Leo try on the sound processor and headpiece to see what it would look like. He chose a blue sound processor.

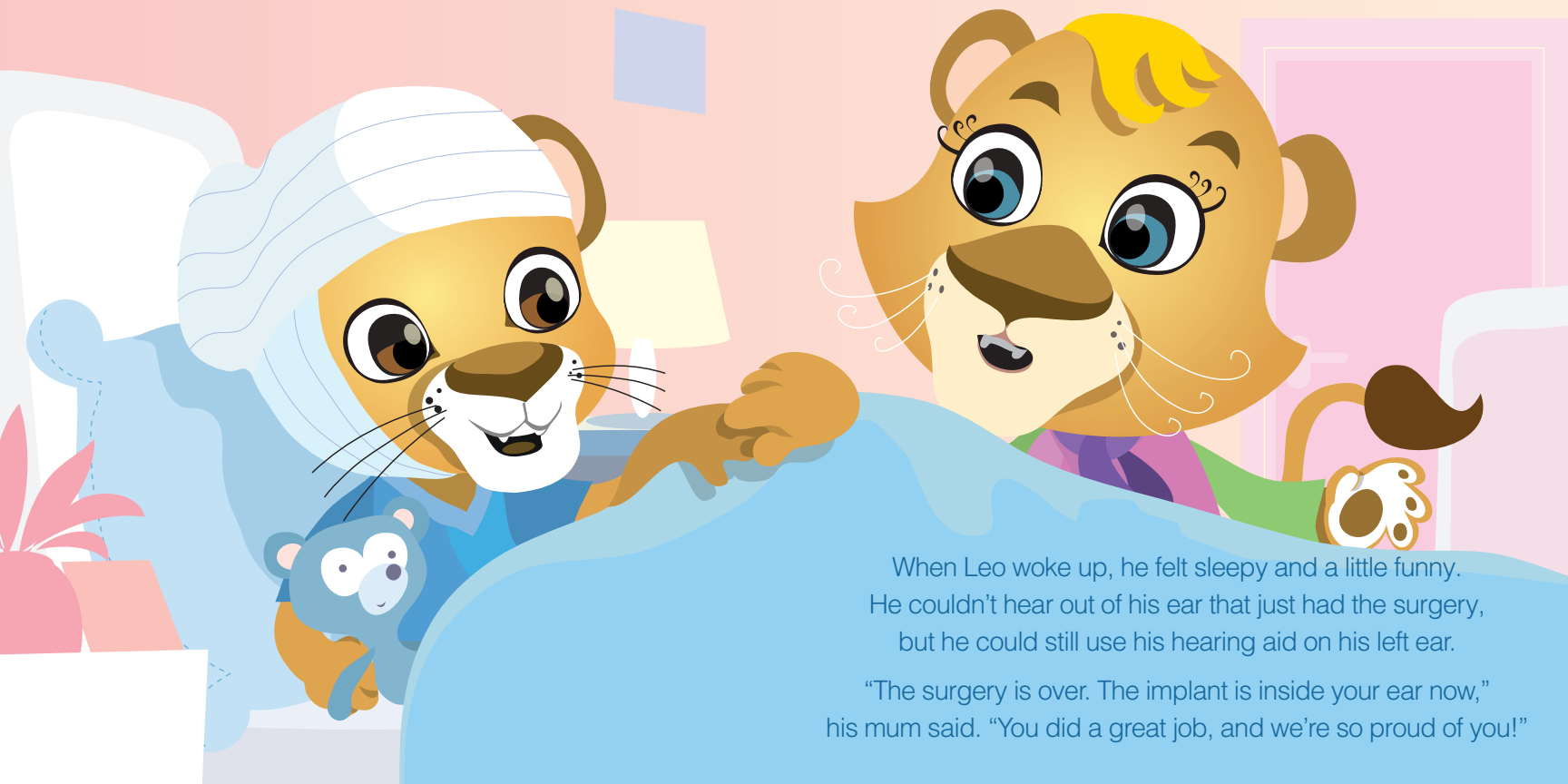
"This is my favourite colour, and it matches my hearing aid!" Leo said.





"It's okay to feel nervous," said Dr. Elephant. "I promise that your parents will be with you until you fall asleep. And when you wake up, they will be there."

On the day of the surgery, Leo was brave but also a little nervous. His parents took him to the hospital, and helped him change into a special gown.



When Leo woke up, he felt sleepy and a little funny.
He couldn't hear out of his ear that just had the surgery,
but he could still use his hearing aid on his left ear.

"The surgery is over. The implant is inside your ear now,"
his mum said. "You did a great job, and we're so proud of you!"

A few weeks later, the cut behind Leo's ear had healed. It was time to visit the audiologist for Activation Day—the day Leo would start hearing with his new cochlear implant!

When the audiologist activated the implant, everything sounded different. His parents' voices sounded squeaky, and it was hard to understand what they were saying.

"It takes time to get used to hearing with a cochlear implant. But with practice, things will start to sound better and clearer," the audiologist said.



Back home, everything sounded new to Leo. He loved hearing with both ears again! He worked with a therapist who helped him practice hearing with his new implant.

Slowly, things started to sound more natural. Leo was able to hear so many new sounds he had never heard before!



During class, his Roger microphone sent the teacher's voice to his hearing aid and cochlear implant at the same time.

He could understand what the teacher was saying, and that made it easier to learn. He could hear his friends at playtime and in the cafeteria again.



At the pool, Leo could play with friends, even in the water.
A special case kept his sound processor from getting wet
so that he could keep hearing and having fun.

“I love the sound of splashing water!” Leo said.



When Leo called his grandma, he could hear her voice
in both his hearing aid and his cochlear implant.



“Grandma! I love my new cochlear implant!” Leo told her.
“It’s helping me hear so much better!”





To learn more about cochlear implant
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