

Parent-to-Parent Support

Meet the family:

Mother: Safia

Father: Ali

Children: Ahmed, 4 years old,
mild/moderate hearing loss
Hassan, 10, hearing
Nimo, 13 hearing

Communication Method: Voice

Newborn Hearing Screening: Yes

Age at Diagnosis: Birth

Wears Hearing Aids

Dear Parent:

We were very excited to have a healthy baby boy. He was perfect in every way. The nurses told us our baby would have his hearing tested and we thought nothing of it because no one in our family has hearing difficulties. When they told us he did not pass the test and needed to be tested again by a specialist, we were very concerned. When he was tested by an audiologist and she confirmed he had a mild/moderate hearing loss, we were devastated. We did not know anyone who had a baby with hearing loss. What future would he have?

We were very hesitant to allow professionals in our lives. As immigrants to this country from Somalia, we were not accustomed to sharing such personal information about our family with strangers. However, we learned to trust the teachers, doctors, and many other professionals who were all very interested in helping us. We met other families in our situation, and this made us feel less alone. It was very good for our family to talk to other Somali families who had children with special needs.

Today, our son is doing very well. He wears hearing aids and attends a school for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. His speech is developing very well and we are sure that he can do anything that he wants when he grows up. We think it is a blessing that we have found so many people who want to help our family. We hope you will find the same, too. Just ask, and help will come.

Best wishes to you,

Ali and Safia

For information about how to connect with a family like this, please contact the Family Support Connection at 1-866-DHOH-KID, or 651-265-2435 in the Twin Cities. Or, you can email fsc@lifetrackresources.org.