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Cochlear Implant Myths and Facts

MYTHS	FACTS
Cochlear implants fix hearing loss and the individual will function like a hearing person.	Cochlear implants are tools that provide access to auditory information. Not all people with cochlear implants benefit the same way. Functional ability ranges from full auditory verbal communication to mere detection of sound in the environment.
Individuals with cochlear implants are hearing.	The most highly skilled cochlear implant users still hear differently than typically hearing individuals. Even with a functioning cochlear implant, the ability to detect, discriminate, and make sense of sound varies by individual. Without functioning cochlear implants, individuals are deaf. This can happen when cochlear implants are taken off because they have broken/missing parts or dead batteries, because of discomfort, or when the individual is sleeping, swimming or bathing.
Students don't need an Individual Education Plan (IEP) if they have a cochlear implant.	Students with cochlear implants may need to have accommodations, modifications and other services documented in an Individual Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or Early Intervention Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).
Students who have a cochlear implant don't need accommodations, interpreters, etc.	Students with cochlear implants may need services like interpreters, printed information, or hearing assistive technology to access auditory information at school. This is determined by the educational team, which includes the parents.
People with cochlear implants are not accepted into the Deaf Community or considered to be a part of Deaf Culture.	People with cochlear implants are in the Deaf Community where they use ASL and share Deaf Culture values. As in any culture group, there are exceptions. Acceptance varies by individual. Some people with cochlear implants choose to integrate into the Deaf Community and some do not.
People who get cochlear implants can hear and understand sound right away.	Having a cochlear implant is a whole new way of hearing. It requires ongoing intensive Auditory Verbal therapy and training to teach individuals how to make sense of what they hear, much like learning a new language.
Cochlear implants are successful for all people.	Success means different things to different people. Some people are happy to hear environmental sounds, while others have a goal to talk on the phone and enjoy music.

	<p>Users experience different rates of progress. Some people develop full listening and spoken language skills. Some people have limited benefit and continue to rely on visual information, and some even choose to stop using the cochlear implant because they do not experience benefits.</p>
<p>Individuals who have cochlear implants don't use sign language.</p>	<p>Some people with cochlear implants sign. Some people with implants talk only and do not sign. Some people with implants do both -- sign and talk. Some people do all of the above, depending on the situation and who they are communicating with.</p>
<p>Parents should not sign with their children who are implanted.</p>	<p>Children benefit from as much language input as possible. Utilizing multiple modes of communication, including voice, sign, pictures, gestures, role play, and any other means of exposing children to language will help the child develop a more full vocabulary, ultimately leading to increased ability with expressive communication.</p>