

## Clara's Story

Clara passed her newborn hearing screen, and seemed to be developing normal language skills until about the age of three. It took some time before anyone would pinpoint exactly what was holding Clara back. A few months after her fourth birthday, we found out that she has severe bilateral sensorineural hearing loss, and was missing all of the conversations around her. She received her first set of hearing aids at age four and half, and began attending Desert Voices just one month later.

Through the help of her teachers at DV, Clara progressed from a frustrated, quiet girl, who was resistant to talk to anyone, to a confident, happy, curious and talkative one! We observed growth and improvement in her speech and language skills every week, and as she learned to communicate better, her moments of frustration and confusion drastically diminished.

After just a year and a half at Desert Voices, Clara mainstreamed to kindergarten at our home public school. Right now she is in first grade, and is excelling in reading, math, and making friends! Her favorite subject is library, and she also loves her time spent in drawing club, tennis club, and violin lessons. Desert Voices truly paved the way to Clara's success and happiness in school and life. She is thriving, and we couldn't be more grateful to all of those who have contributed to that!

DeMaris Family