

pediatric pointers



boy with a hearing loss, and Charlene. Justin wears an FM receiver, reads lips, and often notices things others don't." For the teen/young adult reader, there is a book series called Hear No Evil, about a detective, Sara Howell, "who is smart, savvy, beautiful—and deaf." These books would appeal to all readers and provide good examples for students with hearing loss.

Another very popular book, *I'm the Boss of My Hearing Loss™*, by audiologist Amy Kroll, is a positive and empowering book for children with hearing loss and their parents. This book teaches important concepts about hearing loss and hearing aids using lively and amusing illustrations the whole family will enjoy (www.coolgal.biz).

Kids like story books with photos of other real kids. *My Ears Are On!* is a new booklet that tells the story of a little girl and her cochlear implant, written by a speech pathologist. It is nicely designed and filled with lovely color photographs of the four-year-old girl from her birth to her preschool activities with her implant (myearsareon.com). Advanced Bionics, Cochlear, and Med-El all offer their own wonderful children's materials as well.

The Mainstream Center at Clarke School for the Deaf/Center for Oral Education (www.clarkeschool.org) has a great book for the middle school child, *My Hearing Loss and Me: We Get Along Most of the Time*, by John F. Anderson, a licensed mental health counselor. This is the story of a fourth-grade boy with a cochlear implant who narrates his experiences in school with his teachers and friends and at home with his family. Using everyday scenarios, the book also presents how he and his family deal with misunderstandings and communication issues; a discussion guide is included. Even though the central character uses an implant, the situations ring true for a child using hearing aids, too. This book was recently made available in Spanish.

Friends, Like You, by Melissa Griswold, a member of The Mainstream Center staff, made its debut this fall. Created for the elementary child, this book introduces Molly and Max, two regular kids who happen to have a hearing loss. Molly has an implant and Max wears hearing aids. "Listening can be hard work and misunderstandings happen sometimes, but they don't let their hearing loss stop them from making friends and having fun!"

The overriding theme of all of these books—promoting understanding of and self-confidence for children with hearing loss, regardless of modality—is something worth sharing with all of your patients! 💰

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Read All About It

Does your waiting room contain the latest issues of *Time*, *Family Circle*, *Sports Illustrated*, *People*, *The AARP Magazine*, *Hearing Health*, *Highlights for Children®*? How about adding some colorful, child-friendly educational booklets to make children and adults more aware of childhood hearing loss? And, when you are working with the family of a young child, a school-age child, or a teen with hearing loss, do you have a range of printed materials to recommend?

In our profession, there are many resources—people and organizations—dedicated to improving the experiences of children and families in dealing with hearing loss. I've been fortunate in my work to come across several delightful and informative publications and am happy to share a few of them here. Most of them are available at a nominal cost. Besides enhancing your waiting room and enlightening your patients, you can be a hero for your local library or school by donating a few copies (with a "Compliments of" sticker, of course!).

The Listen Up! Web site (www.listen-up.org/h_books/kids.htm) has an extensive list of nearly 80 books for children about hearing loss. Each book is described and suitable age ranges are provided, including teen/young adult. Some titles include the classic *A Button in her Ear*; *Chris gets Ear Tubes*; *I Have a Sister My Sister is Deaf*; and *My First Book of Sign Language*. Books reflecting different cultures are also available, and the Web site provides links to purchase each of the books. I was especially interested in one series called Invisible, Inc., about a trio of friends who solve mysteries: "Chip, an invisible boy, Justin, a

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