



## BE BRAVE!

Payton was born with “mild to moderate permanent hearing loss.” When she heard this from the doctor, her mother was “quiet, speechless, overwhelmed and inundated with disbelief.” Payton’s parents quickly delved into the world of education for children who are deaf and they learned about Desert Voices.

Their doctor said “I’m absolutely confident that Payton will do fantastic” at the school whose mission is to teach children who are deaf and hard of hearing how to listen and how to speak.

Once they visited Desert Voices, they realized that their child being born deaf was “no longer a frightening or a terrible thing.” At only 8 weeks old, Payton began attending speech therapy and went twice a week for two years. Today, now three years old, Payton attends a 5-day program at a Montessori School and “is doing excellent.” Her evaluation before being accepted to her new school was above average. According to her parents “She most certainly would not be where she is today without Desert Voice



Through use of cochlear implants and hearing aids, Desert Voices students have access to sound. We teach them what those sounds are and to understand the language attached to those sounds. There are many components that go into making this possible but the most important is teaching them more than just the words.

Our kids are brave. Our families are brave. They are entering a world they never thought possible. We couldn’t do what we do without the support of individuals like you. When you walk in our doors you fall in love with our mission to teach children who are deaf and hard of hearing to listen and speak.



The average cost of teaching a child to listen and speak, due to the low student-teacher ratio and frequently one-on-one therapy, is about \$19,000 per year for Early Intervention and about \$33,000 per year for Early Education. We do not receive any state or federal funding. This means more than 80% of our budget comes from corporations, foundations and generous individuals like you

There are many ways you can help. Please contact us at (602) 224-0598 or [info@desert-voices.org](mailto:info@desert-voices.org) to see how you can help give our brave children a voice!

