



Brendan Vasanth, age 5 ½, was diagnosed with profound sensorineural hearing loss at 1 month after failing the newborn hearing screening. There was no family history of hearing loss but it was later determined the loss was due to a mutation in the Connexin 26 gene, the most common cause of childhood deafness.

Brendan's parents immediately went into action. He received his hearing aids and started speech therapy at New York Eye & Ear at 6 weeks old. He received his first cochlear implant at 8 months of age and his second at 11 months. Brendan is mainstreamed at The William Woodward Jr. Nursery School and will be attending kindergarten at the Mandell School in the fall. In clear speech Brendan tells his Mom, "I am eating my spinach so that I can grow up to be like Popeye and help people." His favorite hobbies are legos, soccer and "teaching" his little sister Kate. ***"The most amazing result of our journey and the greatest gift that The Ear Institute has given our family is a typical childhood for our children."***