



Tarlow “Lulu” Topkins, age 2 ½, was born with eyes wide open, immediately taking in the world around her. She was so alert that her parents assumed the best when she failed the Newborn Hearing test at Lenox Hill Hospital. They were told, “It’s probably just fluid in the ears.” When later tests confirmed Lulu’s moderate hearing loss, her parents struggled to understand how this would affect their little girl’s life. Would Lulu struggle to communicate? Would it make learning more difficult? Fortunately for Lulu’s parents the answers to those and other tough questions were quickly answered by the dedicated team at New York Eye and Ear (NYEE) who fitted Lulu with hearing aids. Commit to working with us, they said, and we will ensure that Lulu gets the support she needs to excel in her hearing and speech.

That was 2 ½ years ago. Today they are proud parents of a little girl who is communicating in full sentences “Can I have some more milk please?” and articulating words like “exercising” and “refrigerator.” When asked what Lulu’s first word was, people look at her Mom in astonishment when she says emphatically it was “Around!” This was the code word Lulu had to say to Liz Ying, her speech therapist, in order to play with the wind up toy. Her remarkable achievements are a testament to the many talented people at NYEE who continue to mentor and encourage Lulu.

Lulu’s parents said, ***“We are grateful to the entire team at NYEE for their continued support of, and service to, Lulu and are confident that she is on the right course for continued success.”***