



Daddy's Little Star

Father: *Star, do you hear the water?*

Mother/Father: *What does it sound like?*

Star: *What*

Mother/Father: *What does the water sound like?*

Father: The most important key is patience when you've got to deal with somebody with hearing loss. You got to have patience with them.

You ready?

Being that I was the first one to have Treacher Collins, they didn't understand how to deal with it. You know I felt like I was the one person in the crowd that didn't want to say I can't hear you or I felt different. Don't be afraid to say you can't hear nobody. Only you lose out on that type of situation.

Mother: It's genetic through their father's genes. They have Treacher Collins. Pretty much something wrong craniofacially with between anything from the neck, up. So, like, they have a smaller jaw. They have abnormalities in their ears. The eyes are shaped a little differently, they have less tissue under their eyes.

Father: As first time parents, we didn't know where to go to or where to turn to. We just knew that Star has complications and the process took a while but we finally got her a Baha. And that's when we realized, you know, there is something we can do for her. I think if she would have had the Baha as soon as, like, Gabriel has it now, she would be able to speak more. So right now at five she's still learning how to put words together.

Everything that we learned from the progress of Star we did with Gabriel and a lot faster and it was a lot better. So now Gabriel gets a lot of benefits today that Star couldn't have.

Teacher: *We just want to kind of talk about what he's doing, but we don't necessarily need to ask him a kind of question. We just want to talk about what it is, we can say "Oh look, there's an apple!"*

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Or...here it goes! Oh, oh...

Boom! It goes down. He's like, "I hear it!" "I just want to clap!"

[sound of clapping; music] da, da, da-da-da-da-da; da, da, da-da-da-da-da;
da,da,da,da,da. Yea!!!

Mother: Gabriel, what comes next?

Father: Now in school, Star actually started doing very well the second term.

Scarf.

Star: *Scarf is a...*

Father: And, she knows how to read well, she knows how to do her homework on her own now. All of that paid off for her to go into the first grade now. So the hard work actually pays off.

Mother: The hearing loss in my family I wouldn't say has greatly impacted us in a negative way. It's pretty much just something that, you know, I'm not going to say that we've had to deal with because it's not a burden or anything. This is all I know.

Star: Daddy's my favorite in the whole wide world.

Father: Yeah!