



A sibling's perspective: Callum Sutton

It's one thing to be told that life can change in an instance, but seeing it happen in front of you is an entirely dissimilar experience. When I was first informed that my younger brother Kaileb had profound deafness, it brought so many questions to mind. The hardest to find an answer to was "how will he get through life like this?" I remember not days after we started to learn BSL, and NDCS merchandise started to flood the house. Months went by, he attended multiple weekends away at different NDCS events, meeting other deaf children, and it became apparent that the answer to the question posed was; well, "like everyone else"

It was reassuring to see that there were hundreds of other children going through the same thing, and the support groups available were plentiful. When Kaileb got his Cochlear implants, he started to find his voice, and by the time he was diagnosed with RP, was speaking perfectly, and enunciating every word as if he had been able to hear perfectly the entire time.



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Finding out that Kaileb is about to lose another sense brought back the exact same questions as the first time around, but this time, at least there was time to prepare for what's coming next. The family has been working on building visual memories, and Kaileb has been enjoying every second of it. I'm not around very often because of work and university, but I've seen Kaileb enough times recently to know that he's prepared for this. He's gone through cane training without reluctance, and clearly knows what's happening, and accepts it for what it is. Time and time again life has challenged Kaileb, but he hasn't let it get him down once, every day he's as confident as the last, learning, challenging life back, and living the best he can.