

## Bo's Story... by his mother Deborah

Bo was born in China with a cleft lip and palate. In China they give the clefts ratings from 1-3. His was the most severe at 3. When Bo was 27 months old he came to our family and his new home in a new country. According to the little info I had, he drank from a spoon. When he came to me I tried cleft teats and bottles but he quickly ate the teats! Luckily he could master pop top bottles which were a savior.



When we started the doctor-go-round it was discovered he had mild-moderate hearing loss in both ears.

While this was a surprise, I wasn't stressed as I'd already been through over 12 years of torture trying to adopt.

About six weeks prior to surgery Bo was given a headband hearing aid. The look on his face when he stopped fighting us and let us put it on him was amazing. I wore a headband as well to encourage him and he raced to get them in the mornings. Unfortunately, and not surprising, it never sat on correctly or was taken off and played with & was always beeping. I was sooo glad to see the end of it!

I had to advocate to bring his surgery forward as I was told the wait was over eight months. Due to many factors including his background, a new language he had to learn, a new family he had to attach to, his weight and my ability (or lack thereof) to carry and comfort him post surgery (he was over 14 kg and I'm stalling knee replacement surgery) etc, etc I put forward a convincing letter and his surgery was performed by Andrew Greensmith 17 July 2010 on his 31 month birthday. Although his grommets fell out in the first few weeks (due to obscenely rapid growth spurts that adopted children have due to suddenly receiving the right nutrients etc), so far his hearing has tested in the normal range. His final hearing test and ENT are in the next few months and if there is no reoccurrence of fluid build up (which they don't expect to happen) then we can wave goodbye to that department!



He is now under the care of Noah's Ark who are brilliant and are helping me deal with behavior issues associated with his early years pre having a family. Over all Bo is on track with other children his age. He is advanced in a few areas and we suspect when his English comprehension expands further he will be a few years ahead.