



health

**GREY'S HOSPITAL**

Department:  
Health

**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

**SPEECH THERAPY & AUDIOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

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Hello there,

Thank you for inviting me to talk today. I am sorry I can not be here in person. My name is Moosa Meeran. I am the Chief Audiologist at Greys Hospital in Pietermaritzburg, Kwazulu Natal. My particular area of interest is Pediatric Audiology. I currently hold the following degrees: BSocSci (Psychology) from University of Natal (2002); and BSc Hons (Audiology) from the University of Cape Town (2007). In my professional career I have worked as an audiologist at both Tygerburg Hospital in the Western Cape and Greys Hospital in Kwazulu Natal. My career thus far has given me lots of experience in the assessment and management of children with hearing loss and I continue learn something new everyday.

Greys Hospital is a Tertiary Level Facility and provides audiology services to both adult and pediatric populations. We provide support to hospitals and clinics throughout the western half of Kwazulu Natal. At Greys we are fortunate to have both behavioural and objective tools to assess and make diagnoses of hearing loss very early in life. However, often we are not the first line contact for patients and in the absence of a universal hearing screening programme in South Africa, we are not always able to identify and diagnose hearing loss in children early enough. Inpatient children and infants with high-risk criteria at Greys are however are picked up early. Our youngest baby was 2 days old and has passed successfully from our early intervention programme into the Hi-Hopes support network and is now currently in school at Fulton.

When we began to shape and mould the Greys Pediatric Programme in 2008 we did everything from diagnosis, early intervention down to the final school placement and release to schools therapist. With our ever growing case load it became difficult to keep track of every child that passed through our system. Sadly some children started to fall away and could not be tracked once they left us. Many patients come from deep rural areas where there are no telephones or even specific addresses and this made it impossible for us to contact them.

In November 2009 Hi-Hopes approached us about their services. At first we were a little hesitant to refer our kiddies and their families to an organization that we were not familiar with. However after meeting the coordinator and learning of their success with hearing impaired families in Gauteng, we became excited at having them as a partner to support the children and their families. Within a matter of two months they successfully assisted with school placement for nearly all the children in our early intervention programme and continued to provide home based support to their families. Their approach has increased compliance with hearing aid use, home based therapy and also with attending follow-up appointments with us at the hospital.

This home based support technique ensures that even those families in far off rural areas do not disappear. The parent advisors travel all over the province to track down the families to ensure the best outcomes for the children with hearing loss. It is because of this dedication that Hi-Hopes has become an integral part of our management process at Greys. We currently refer all newly diagnosed infants and children to them. On average we make around 6 to 8 referrals to them per month with the average age being around 4 years. My colleagues in the regional and district hospitals are making increased use of Hi-Hopes and I have received positive feedback.

I look forward to a continued relationship with their programme and hope they continue to expand their services.

PS If anyone would like assist us in whatever means, please feel free to contact us through Hi-Hopes.

Kind wishes

Moosa Meeran

Chief Audiologist

Greys Hospital