

# Sam's Story



My mum and dad found out I was deaf when I was about 18 months old. I don't know how they felt, but I'm glad to be me! I communicate by listening and talking. I know I can't hear properly and sometimes that makes me feel anxious and maybe a little angry, but that is mostly when my hearing aids or FM plays up.

I felt really nervous about starting school when I was 5, and was upset if people called me names like "*Deafy Boy!*" but that doesn't happen now. If they call me names now, it has nothing to do with being deaf! Now I am in Year 8.

I work hard at school and I have special friends. I love sport and I play cricket and soccer. I've been in the Rep team four times for cricket. I won a trophy in 2004, 2006 and 2008. When I grow up I want to be chosen as a Black Cap and play for New Zealand. I feel that I can do anything if I really want to.

*By Sam,  
Aged 12 years,  
Year 8,  
Masterton*

