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## Toddler well after surgery for hearing

By Tanya Flanagan  
[Review-Journal](#)

Noah Frizzell, who on Wednesday became the first child in Nevada to receive an advanced hearing implant, was doing well a day after surgery.

Noah visited Dr. Ashley *Sikand*'s office Thursday afternoon and an audiologist said the 2-year-old is recovering well.

*Sikand* performed a three-hour operation on Noah at Sunrise Children's Hospital, 3186 S. Maryland Parkway, to insert in the child's head a multistrategy cochlear implant system. Noah was born without hearing in either ear.

*Sikand*, who is an ear, nose and throat specialist, cut Noah's head behind the left ear and then used a drill and carved out a space in the skull where the device was placed. Once the device was secure, *Sikand* stitched the child's skin back in place over the implant.

Noah was released from the hospital Thursday morning before the routine post-operation evaluation at *Sikand*'s private practice. It will be two weeks before he completely heals from the surgery. At that time, *Sikand* will turn on the device and tests will begin to make sure the implant works.

With the implant, Noah who could only hear the sound of roaring jet airplane engines, will be able to hear sounds at various pitches. The implant is capable of processing 104,000 pieces of information per second so a person can decipher sounds. The device cost about \$20,000 and the operation roughly cost an additional \$10,000, *Sikand* said.

*Sikand* has done seven implants in Southern Nevada since April 1997, including Noah's. He is scheduled to do implants on four other children this year, he said.