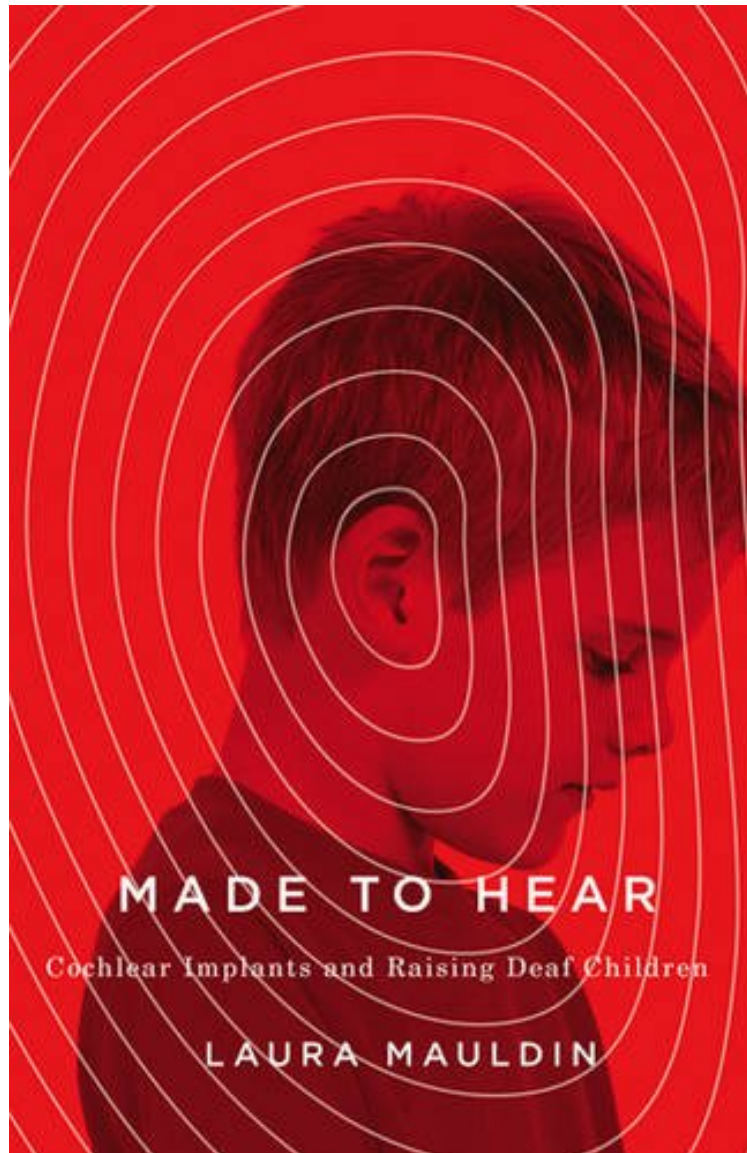


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Laura Mauldin

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Laura Mauldin : Made to Hear: Cochlear Implants and Raising Deaf Children (A Quadrant Book) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Made to Hear: Cochlear Implants and Raising Deaf Children (A Quadrant Book):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Illuminating narrative on the medicalization and biopoliticalization of Deaf infants, children, and their families
By Michelle I'm deaf and I work within the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention system. This book was by far the most illuminating narrative I've read about how families of children that are deaf or hard of hearing born today are immediately put on a track for oral/aural and auditory habilitation and presumed cochlear implantation. Not only did this book describe the process parents undergo (yes, one downside was the small and limited number of families that were followed for this book), but Mauldin most importantly helped me understand the socio-cultural and medical narrative perspectives of deafness and essentially why there is such a divide in the long-battled positions of proponents of oralism and those of a Deaf identity and use of American Sign Language (ASL). I like how Mauldin clearly outlines her biases upfront and describes her structured and anthropology-based approach in documenting and capturing this unique cross-section of how modern medicine and technology interacts with both mainstreamed and minority cultures. A must read for anyone in the EHDI field, Universal Newborn Hearing Screening state programs, Audiologists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Deaf Educators and parents alike.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A cultural perspective of pediatric implantation
By Mary in Kalamazoo, MI
This book has really helped to open my eyes to the perspective of members of the Deaf culture about cochlear implants and the decision to implant very young children. The CI industry may not have been as altruistic as hearing people might think. The industry is just that and is very profitable. Professionals really need to be supportive of family's decision making on implantation. Reading this book has helped me to see this more clearly. I still support implantation for children, but there is lots of things that families need to consider and they should be supported with being fully educated on the pros and cons of ASL and oralism. One is not THE answer, in my opinion.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A socio-medical overview of attitudes regarding hearing devices and implants
By DG
An absorbing view of people regarding cochlear implants for children, their mindsets, goals and hopes. It challenges the medical viewpoint that a cochlear implant is a standard treatment for deafness, because it is much more complicated than that. As no two individuals are alike, nor are their families, the results of CI surgery are variable. To be taken into consideration are the expectations of the parents, their social environment and preconceptions, their inner feelings of guilt and acceptance, and their reasonings for subjecting their children to surgery. Since nothing is guaranteed in any major decision concerning children, well-informed parents need to also examine their motivations and weigh their options as well as that of their children. Also examined are the preconceptions of society in general as well as those of doctors.

A mother whose child has had a cochlear implant tells Laura Mauldin why enrollment in the sign language program at her daughters school is plummeting: The majority of parents want their kids to talk. Some parents, however, feel very differently, because curing deafness with cochlear implants is uncertain, difficult, and freighted with judgment about what is normal, acceptable, and right. *Made to Hear* sensitively and thoroughly considers the structure and culture of the systems we have built to make deaf children hear. Based on accounts of and interviews with families who adopt the cochlear implant for their deaf children, this book describes the experiences of mothers as they navigate the health care system, their interactions with the professionals who work with them, and the influence of neuroscience on the process. Though Mauldin explains the politics surrounding the issue, her focus is not on the controversy of whether to have a cochlear implant but on the long-term, multiyear undertaking of implantation. Her study provides a nuanced view of a social context in which science, technology, and medicine are trusted to vanquish disability and in which mothers are expected to use these tools. *Made to Hear* reveals that implantation has the central goal of controlling the development of the deaf child's brain by boosting synapses for spoken language and inhibiting those for sign language, placing the politics of neuroscience front and center. Examining the consequences of cochlear implant technology for professionals and parents of deaf children, *Made to Hear* shows how certain neuroscientific claims about neuroplasticity, deafness, and language are deployed to encourage compliance with medical technology.

"A superb account of how a controversial technology becomes normalized patient by patient. While following families from newborn screening to post-Cochlear implant, Laura Mauldin shows that little of the political turmoil related to this medical technology is salient for the parents faced with a child with hearing loss." Stefan Timmermans, University of California, Los Angeles