



Savannah, 3, plays hide and seek in the grounds at Taralye.

Picture: DAVID SMITH

Listen-up day at Taralye

HEARING IMPAIRMENT CENTRE OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE COMMUNITY

SINCE 1968, Taralye oral language centre has helped hearing-impaired children experience life to the fullest.

Next week it will open its doors to the community, giving people the chance to see the life-changing work it performs first-hand.

Development manager Kevin Gray said the cen-

tre was now able to permanently remove the disability of hearing impairment.

"If children have cochlear implants and hearing aids by six months and we give quality intervention, by the time they get to kinder you can't tell deaf kids from kids who were born with normal hearing," he

said. "The outcomes they achieve with sport, music, social engagement, marriage and careers are everything their parents hoped for before they were born, which is a vast difference to what parents could expect in the 1970s and 1980s."

Mr Gray said the work the centre performed

was incredibly rewarding and "why we get up and go into work every morning".

The open week will feature guided tours for the public.

Tours are available at 10am on Tuesday, May 21 and Thursday, May 23 and programs will run from May 20-24.

Details: 9877 1300.

AT A GLANCE

Taralye promotes early intervention and family-centred learning to support hearing-impaired children

It helps about 35 children a year before and after cochlear implant surgery

It costs about \$13,000 a year to teach a child to speak

Taralye relies on donations of about \$1.3 million a year