



Emma, 4, has been growing in confidence since starting at Taralye Oral Language Centre.

Picture: SUSAN WINDMILLER

After 50 years of helping, centre needs a hand

FOR Emma and her family, Taralye Oral Language Centre has proved life-changing.

Emma, 4, has been attending the Blackburn learning centre since she was five months old after being diagnosed with a severe hearing impairment when she was

two weeks old. She received a cochlear implant in her right ear when she was 10 months old.

Emma's mum, Anna, said Taralye and its staff had been a crucial source of support.

"We're very lucky to have this place," Anna said.

"I remember when she was in early learning, she didn't speak at all. And one day I came in to pick her up and the teacher said, 'Oh my God, she sang *Twinkle Twinkle* today'.

"Every week now she is growing in confidence."

Taralye, which has been

helping children with hearing impairments for almost 50 years, is calling on the community to support it in the People's Choice Community Lottery, with which it hopes to raise more than \$4000.

Buy the \$2 tickets at communitylottery.com.au