

Dear Mom and Dad

Thank you for accepting me for the way I am after finding out I had hearing loss. Even though you don't really understand deaf/hard of hearing culture, you still have supported me my whole life and I'm glad that both of you are my parents.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have language development of both ASL and English. It is easy for me to use both, so I can communicate easily with both deaf and hearing people. I'm so glad that I can use ASL to communicate to communicate with my deaf friends and use English language with both of you, our families and my hearing friends.

Thank you for being flexible to my needs. For example, I didn't like speech training at doctors appointments because I felt like the doctors forced me to practice and I did not have enough time to practice outside of the appointment, so you helped me start practicing at school. Practicing at school worked better for me because I could practice with friends and teachers and my speech became slow and clear. I also want to thank you for letting me decide to stop doing speech training after I finished high school as my speech skills became good enough that I could practice on my own.

Thank you for letting me take my time to talk slow and clear while communicating with both of you and our families. At school I use ASL to communicate with my deaf and hard of hearing friends and use English to communicate with my hearing friends and hearing teachers at school.

Thank you for letting me use both languages at home and anywhere we go. For example, at the beach or water park when I have to take off my cochlear implant, we can still easily understand what we are saying by using ASL to communicate, but more with hand gestures.

Thank you for sending me to an elementary, middle, and high school in xxx which had better environments for deaf and hard of hearing students that provided interpreters and teachers that knew ASL. The mainstream schools in xxx provided me a better education and most of my teachers supported me and helped me improve academically.