

Dear Mom and Dad

This letter's sole purpose is to thank you both for your desires and efforts to ensure that I am fully educated. You have made me into a young adult full of potential. I can function normally among the others and keep up with the flow. But I know this hasn't been a free ride for both of us.

I can begin with the language development. I owe you both greatly for successfully delivering a wonderful language called ASL into me. Also thank you both for providing me a home environment where I could communicate effectively. I can remember you both signing fables, short stories, etc. to me when I was a child. You both would basically sign anything to me as I grew up helping me familiarize myself with basic language. You both did that almost every night and I loved it so much. That sure helped me pick up the tricks to be successfully reading books on my own. I can recall you both strongly encouraged reading and made sure that our house would be filled with books. Indeed it is! When I was growing up I would go through basically every novel in the house that were available. That definitely helped me pick up most of the aspects of the English language. I also remembered many deaf figures throughout my life, mostly your friends, who I looked up to because I was just a little boy. I would be awed and fascinated by the things they own or do.

I can't really say the same about my speech training. I had a sweet old lady as a speech teacher. She had that cool computer game in which I had to voice some sounds on the microphone and there would be a hot air balloon trying to reach the end of the screen without hitting any of the rocks along the way. I wouldn't pay any attention about how I would speak but to make sure I guide the hot air balloon to safety every time. I wasn't really interested in learning how to speak because I didn't understand its purpose. So my speech training eventually stopped as I got older.

Lastly, I remembered how well developed I was socially speaking. You made me participate in sports, which turned out to be my area of strength. I participated in hearing sports. As I recall, soccer and baseball were the first two little league sports my parents introduced me to. I was the only deaf child on the team for most of my childhood. That wasn't damaging at all. I learned to keep up with everyone else and with given time I improved my play. Soon enough I was playing as well as everyone. Of course I remembered how proud you both were. I would play with the other hearing children till I was about 15 when I entered high school. I would finally play sports with my deaf peers. I still do enjoy sports very much and know it's a significant part of people's lives especially mine. Without you both it could be different. With sports as a strong fundamental, I excelled in socializing with people. I love to chat with people especially different people. It's something I developed after all these times communicating with hearing peers.

As you have seen that you have raised me into an educated young adult. I eternally thank you both for covering the necessary areas that helped me be what I am now. As I go through the system, I begin to realize how vital each area would be to one's education. Now I know what I got to for my child if I had one. Thanks for everything.

Love always

,