

Mom

I am very thankful for everything you done for my education. I am glad that you did listened advices from Uncle when you were a teenager. I know it was not easy due to your illness and being a single mother of two hard of hearing children. You did your very best.

Thank you for trusting my judgment in my own education. I found a deaf program at my school in the first grade by following deaf students. However there are several things I wish you made more effort or action in. I wish you were able to do more such as learning sign language, and understanding how I felt about speech. I do appreciate how we communicated at home and you understood my needs for school and support my academic skill development but my social development outside of my family isn't as strong or I don't have the confident in communication outside of family. I am grateful that you learned a few words however I wish you learned more. My expectations were not high but I wish you learn enough to communicate with me better. Maybe it would've made our connection stronger if it isn't already strong now. I am glad that you made alternative at home to communicate or get my attention such as flashing on and off the lights to get my attention or stomping hard. I like how you walking a little heavy so I know that you are behind me. It was not easy to communicate sometimes because I couldn't hear you or sometimes I didn't know what you were trying to say but I could understand you better than other person because I know your voice. I also didn't understand what some family member says so I would ask my cousin to translate what they said and sometimes there were miscommunication. It made things hard to trust.

Mama, I also want to thank you for practicing my speech with me but I did not like it. It was hard for me to like speech because I couldn't hear all the sounds in words so it felt like my tongue was twisted tied. I know that it benefits me in the long run so people can understand what I am saying to them. At school we had a speech therapist like once or twice a week and it was a struggle because I was only practicing my speech but I was practicing other students as well. It was different and it was hard. I still don't like to speak because I still have hard time pronouncing words. That why I didn't like to order my food in restaurants and I rather have you order for me. I did like practicing my hearing because I was curious of what I could hear with or without my hearing.

Now that I'm older I realized that you were teaching me my hearing had limits but not weakness but it taught me not to depend on my ears as much and learn my surroundings. Mama, you were teaching me to use my eyes and head to get through life because they are my strength. I wish I had more social skills.

I wish you allowing me to go to some deaf events or any events with my friends. It was important to me because I wanted to learn about deaf culture. I already didn't feel like I fit in hearing world so I wanted to see if I fit in the deaf world. It is a struggle for me to figure out where I belong in the world. I am guessing that you may felt like I was struggling with both worlds so you keep me within family.

Last but not least thank you for always supporting my academic skills. I was always doing well and you bought practice math and English books to help me improve more. I appreciate you helping me build my project together or reading over my essays. You were always active in my schooling and I appreciate it. Nevertheless, I rather you learn ASL or expose me to my deaf culture.

I am appreciative of everything you did the best you can in my education and because of you I am the woman I am today and that I work hard in my education to be the best I can be. I am forever grateful.