

CODA (Hearing Children of Deaf Adults)

As the firstborn child in the deaf family grows, his or her responsibility as liaison to the hearing world grows. Other children may follow, but the oldest child typically becomes the interpreter.

Hearing children of deaf parents

- do not have the skill to cope with the role of liaison for the family but must perform in the role
- sometimes take on more responsibility than would normally be expected for their age
- sometimes feel the need to protect their parents from misunderstanding
- may be uncomfortable expressing culturally appropriate expressions from the source language, if they are inappropriate in the target language
- are trying still give help to deaf people in communication with majority society
- cannot be expected to function as a participant and to interpret at the same time
- may not be able to separate out feelings directed at the addressee through the interpreter from feelings directed at the interpreter

Hearing people

- are satisfied with role of children as interpreters
- did not understand how to communicate through an interpreter
- still see deaf people as less intelligent and less cultured - in a word, as marginal members of the society

Deaf parents

- Do they have another choice?
- did not understand how to communicate through an interpreter and naturally enough, are expecting to be represented as adults
- must be careful not to put their interpreting child in a position that creates conflict, for example, in a medical or court situation (in a communication with hearing people at the whole)

All of that cause that children are frustrated from the interpreting. Children have own rights...
(NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child – article no. 32)

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