Being deaf or hard of hearing is a terrible condition many people suffer from. Millions of people all over the world are deaf or hard of hearing and experience great difficulties when trying to communicate with people. People with this disability are subjects of massive stereotypes, for example, some people will begin to speak louder or yell when they know a person is hard of hearing instead of just slowing their sentences down. People with this disability also end up very lonely due to the difficulty of communication with others especially people who were not born deaf. This can lead to varying amount of depression and a separation from society. The parent and child advocate program helps bridge the communication gap between deaf people and hearing people.

After viewing these videos of frequently used words and phrases, I realized that it must be very difficult for the parents of these children to communicate. There are hundreds of signs in ASL and trying to learn them later in life is a challenging task. I cannot imagine the feeling of not being able to talk to my child; however, this is a struggle many parents face. It makes me sad thinking about how many families are in the world with deaf children who are unable to communicate with their parents or vice versa.

I feel there should be more programs like PCA for people and families who want to learn to communicate with deaf or hard of hearing people. I feel it is very important to understand deaf culture and do our best to communicate in any way possible. This is one of the reasons I chose to take ASL because I have met many people who are deaf or are nonverbal and are unable to communicate in the same way as everyone else. I want to do pediatric special needs nursing in the future and being able to communicate with my patients will be key especially in the hospital setting.