

Heritage Language Learners Video Transcript

Module 4

Brent: Your CODA child has unique, valued perspective. Being raised in a home with heritage language and culture while navigating the predominantly hearing world has many benefits and challenges. Our aim is to provide heritage research-based tips and personal experience as CODAs that we hope aid your understanding as your child develops the social and educational environment.

Rosalinda: Codas have common experiences where we have integrated both deaf/hearing culture, yet where we interact/socialize with hearing world, we realize the expectations or social norms are different.

For example, one Coda when attending school (hearing) for the first time -hugged everyone.

Brent: 1) OVERALL CHALLENGE 2) EXAMPLES 3) IMPORTANCE 4) TIP

Rosalinda: Another way to express: Not all hearing people friendly = Hearing people TEND not hug, hug, hug like Deaf culture/community. Social norms between the Deaf and hearing world are different and this has an impact for Coda children and adults. Communication style is one example of this - i.e. Deaf blunt -example from jr. high - be more concise.

Brent: (CHALLENGES) Cultural norms such as turn-taking, explicit and direct language differ from hearing and Deaf worlds. Values including access, collectivism, eye contact, etc. when used outside of certain social contexts can be misunderstood and deemed inappropriate. With your help, your child can successfully thrive in both worlds.

Brent: (IMPORTANCE) As your child grows and develops more identity awareness, it is important to recognize differences in both worlds while fostering their CODA pride. This will look different at each stage of development. Here are some suggestions.

Brent: (SOCIAL CHALLENGE: LANGUAGE) Bilingual bimodal will code blend. Can lead to embarrassment, bullying and withdrawal.

Rosalinda: Many Codas share this experience of making missteps when it comes to code blending.

Brent: (TIP: Encourage code blending/switching. Find older mentor/model with shared experience (i.e. sibling/CODA friend) use if none are local, use SM

Brent: (GOAL: Develop confidence and community/belonging even outside classroom)

Brent: (TIP:) Tell your child that their experience is normal and okay for CODAs. They are not alone.

Brent: (TIP:) Embracing differences in others will foster healthy view of diversity tolerance for uniqueness

Rosalinda: When we become proud of our identity, sometimes we rely too much on our "Coda card"

Redundant concept - be more concise about using Coda on resume or explaining your work experience.

Career options -encourage your child to seek out their passions - Codas are good mediators, good at capturing body language, read people, negotiator = could inform their career choices - not only as ASL interpreters - empathy, etc.

Rosalinda: Cherish both -"Double" Self-esteem sign - KEEP!

Rosalinda: Benefits of being a Coda -many