# Heritage Language Learners Video Transcript

Module 3: Relying on Kodas to Interpret

**Christine**: The point is it worth having our kids interpret for us. I have some tips I want to share.

**Lisa**: Watching my kids grow up, as Kodas I've always been interactive and writing back and forth with whomever I was talking with. Whether it be on paper or me typing notes on my cell phone. Maybe having my cell phone open to notes with the talk to text feature on and turning it to the hearing person. I do this myself and always let my child watch me. There might be some eye rolls and that's OK. Let them watch you do this. I will never ask for them to interpret for me. They've watched this as they've grown up and they've seen me struggle some and sometimes misunderstandings have happened. They will say mom it is ok and start signing for me. They decide this for themselves. I will never ask them to interpret for me. It's usually something simple and the hearing person doesn’t understand. They interpret one time to clarify. I will never ask him to interpret for me. What about you?

**Christine**: It's most of the same. I always am responsible for interpreting myself. But sometimes the kids will take over. I tell them thank you I give them value to that I never just tell them no don't do that. They have that internal want to do that, and we don't want to oppress that and never ignore it. We always want to recognize the value of that. Occasionally, it happens where there is a need for an interpreter. One Sunday at school we had two deaf families come in for a presentation. We couldn’t find an interpreter. Our 2 kids were honored to be able to do it. Their brother and sisters asked if they could, and they took turns interpreting every 10 minutes. Were our kids perfect? No but it gave them a sense of pride. We thanked them and told them what a great job they did and told them we were lucky to have them! It wasn’t a long time. They took turns and swapped off every 10 minutes. Show them appreciation, it is their talent, we should celebrate that skill.

**Lisa**: Yes, let them understand your experiences and your communication access. It's OK for them to see that and learn that. It’s important that they want to support and be involved. It helps encourage them.

**Christine**: It's key that we clarify and make sure kids know what the law is and what the requirements are when an interpreter is needed. That sometimes we must fight for those rights and make sure they understand that they can't say they will do it for us. Make sure they understand that in this situation they should provide an interpreter. So, they know the difference with what is required vs if something pops up and it doesn’t need an interpreter. Maybe talk to other parents with Kodas and see what their structure is and how they can be supportive of when it is ok to allow your kids to interpret and when is it not ok. Thank you so much!