

Parent/Family Comments

"It was after she received her hearing aids, that a newer employee at SIU Audiology recommended that we look into ISD. We were confused. [Student's name] is not a deaf child. That's a deaf school. However, we were grabbing at anything to give us hope for this sweet little girl. We decided to take a chance. What could it hurt to visit. We'd not seen her light up as much as she did that day, joining in for ASL lessons, music, group lessons. She was surrounded by children excited to see her, who pointed at her hearing aids, as if they were in awe of a new pair of shoes. We decided that this is where she belongs, without a doubt."

Carrie

"Our son was born with bilateral sensorineural mild to moderate hearing loss. In June of 2014, our family of six attended Parent Institute. It was one of the best investments of time we've ever made. We gained important information from the evals done on our son. Our 3 girls made good friends and had a great time learning some basic ASL and playing. My husband and I learned so many things about deaf and hard of hearing culture, advocacy, available technology, etc. We also made life long family friends at our week there. We very much enjoyed both our daily Cued Speech and ASL lessons. The classes were both fun and educational. We saw very quickly the value of both forms of communication and gained a new appreciation for them. We were impressed that ISD was teaching both."

Joe & Tara

"[Student's name] is placed at ISD because we believe it is the best place for her to learn in an environment where she is with her deaf peers and can have deaf mentors. She often turns her hearing aids off while at home, but when in a hearing public she chooses to hear. She is bicultural, and she is making the choice. [She] excels in school at ISD, where they are focused on meeting her unique learning needs. [She] takes ASL class along with other core subjects. She has a strong master of the English language and has tested 'above measureable range' for several years. She has had both deaf and hearing teachers. She loves school, loves learning and loves that as an 8th grader she's allowed to take high school algebra! She is challenged to learn and benefits greatly from the educational environment at ISD. Her teachers make academic, behavioral and environmental accommodations to meet her own specific individual needs."

Gwenn

"[Student's name] was presented with several communication options: ASL, pictures, electronic, verbal...and we would follow and adhere to what he adapted to best. His preferred method is a combination of sign language, pictures and some electronics. He's learning to make choices about what works best for him."

Deb

"My son, who is twelve years old, has been attending ISD for the past four school years. We have used ASL as one of our forms of communication since he was six months old, to help with his ability to communicate his basic needs. Communication of any form has always been a struggle for our son. Since attending ISD, all of his communication skills have improved greatly. While attending ISD, he has been provided many communication tools including ASL, Cued speech, verbal communication, and we are currently in the process of implementing a Nova8 communication tablet. As his parents, were informed up front what communication tools would be used to educate our son. We are in 100% agreement with, and we wholeheartedly appreciate, the process being utilized by ISD."

Christy

I have four children at ISD and am deaf myself. My children present very differently with regard to their communication needs and hearing loss. They all consistently use hearing aids and/or cochlear implants to achieve maximum auditory input. All four of them also communicate fluently and effectively in ASL, and two of them use spoken English. The variety of services and programs provided at ISD successfully meet the educational needs of each of my individual children. I feel blessed that my children are in a school that provides a truly bilingual (ASL and English) program for deaf and hard of hearing students, while being open to their diverse communication preferences.

Curt