

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETERS OF THE DEAF

There are five certified professional interpreters of the Deaf in the State of Utah. These five individuals were invited to make recommendations. One officially answered in writing and these recommendations are summarized as follows:

Teachers are needed who are interested in the students learning reading, writing, and arithmetic. Lip reading will come with knowledge of language. The deaf child needs to comprehend what he is reading. This cannot be done if the emphasis is on talking without understanding.

Living among the Deaf has been a learning experience. Deaf people desire to excel in all they do and want to be accepted by the "hearing" world for themselves. They do not want to be pitied. They want acceptance for their successes and their ability to meet the challenges of everyday living.

"I have seen the frustration of some of the students trying so hard to understand and have felt some of the failure that comes to them when their ability to lip-read fails. Many words look the same on the lips and when you spell the word or make a sign for it there is a glow in their eye that says, 'Oh, I would not have known'."

There is too much emphasis on speech while the child is young and his learning ability is strong. We need teachers who are willing to go that extra mile and make learning a great experience.