



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections*

## **Deaf Folklore: Deaf Theater: Kaleidoscope; Deaf Folklore Sampler JUN 26 1981**

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WEBVTT

00:04:30.000 --> 00:04:36.000

<i>Jo Radner</i>: Are there any other questions? Yes, one right here.

00:04:36.000 --> 00:05:02.000

<i>Audience Member/John Ennis (interpreter)</i>: Suppose that a deaf person, they were trying to supervise some kids and they were fooling around?" No, Oh. Mocking, making fun, because of the deafness. How do you handle that, how do you manage that?

00:05:02.000 --> 00:05:12.000

<i>Jan DeLap/John Ennis (interpreter)</i>: Let me ask you a question and make sure I understand your question. Are you deaf? Yes. OK, me too.

00:05:12.000 --> 00:05:22.000

I grew up in a school, in a residential school, and all my playmates were deaf, were all the same.

00:05:22.000 --> 00:05:33.000

But, when I would go home, to my parents' home, the neighborhood kids, most at the time were just very curious and they wanted to learn signs.

00:05:33.000 --> 00:05:46.000

And they learned quickly. But truly, there would be some teasing. I think that's true of any other handicap: blind, deaf, cripple, you will get some teasing, perhaps at an early age.

00:05:46.000 --> 00:06:02.000

But if you can manage that and understand that really they don't understand you, and just have some pity and sympathy for them, not for yourself. [[Clapping]]

00:06:02.000 --> 00:06:15.000

<i>Jo Radner</i>: That's very good advice. Any other questions, experiences you'd like to share. Yes.

00:06:15.000 --> 00:06:21.000

<i>Audience Member</i>: Do deaf children make their own signs up?

<i>Jo Radner</i>: You mean name signs?

00:06:21.000 --> 00:06:41.000

<i>Audience Member</i>: Just games that their parents don't understand, things to talk behind their parents' back, like gibberish, you know?

00:06:41.000 --> 00:07:01.000

<i>Jan DeLap/John Ennis (interpreter)</i>: Um, hearing children do probably the same thing when they're learning language, trying different words, maybe saying it the wrong way, perhaps in wrong contexts, and it sounds funny. That's true with deaf children.

00:07:01.000 --> 00:07:14.168

We learn signs early and always asking questions, "What's this, what's that, who's this, what for?", so forth. And we do play with signs, yes.  
That's true.



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