>> One minute , okay. What we do for this? Tech person in the back, we are supposed to be good at this but we are not, help us. I'm not even going to live . Okay cool. Great start. Being a child who is deaf or hard of hearing is not always easy. But, neither is being there sibling. Hello, I am Coleman Jones from Nevada voices.

>> I am Taylor Vass from Oregon voices .

>> Hi, I am Cole or Coleman. I turned 14 a week ago . I do karate and I have two siblings that are hard of hearing , and I'm the middle child .

>> I am Taylor, I just turned 15 and I like to play piano and guitar. I have one deaf sibling that is a year younger than me .

>> We would've put pictures of both of us together because we did this panel at the hands and voices leadership conference in New York, but I forgot.

>> These are our panelists, they can introduce themselves with their name, age and something they like to do with their deaf or hard of hearing sibling .

>> My name is Lindsay , I am a senior member of this committee appear, I am 27 I am a sibling of a deaf or hard of hearing adult . My brother Anthony is 22 and I'm a pediatric cardiologist at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

>> My name is Seth, I am from Indianapolis and I'm with Indiana voices, I am 17. I have a sibling who was hard of hearing, she is 12. She goes to Heritage Christian .

>> I am Sophia Marquette, I live in Zionsville Indiana. I'm a part of the Indiana hand invoices Junior board and hold the Vice President officer position. My brother Jack is 10 and he is deaf but he has cochlear implants .

>> Thank you so much. We are now transitioning into our questions for the audience .

>> By a show of hands, how many of you had to leave your kids to come here?

>> Wow, that is a lot. How many of you leave your other kids at home figure deaf or hard of hearing child's appointment ?

>> How many of you have bought your kids the gift because of having to be patient ?

>> How many of you hearing kids have ever expressed interest in being deaf or hard of hearing?

>> Now getting into our questions for the panelists , what is the best thing about having a deaf or hard of hearing sibling? Whoever wants to start can go .

>> One thing that I was is the best part for me is that when I first found out about my sisters hard of hearing, it just opened me up to a new world and gave me plenty of other opportunities to meet new people and to just interact with people who are deaf or hard of hearing . I have interacted with best buddies and stuff like that before. My mom is big into that but I've never interacted with deaf or hard of hearing people. That was pretty cool for me and just learning how to and stuff like that. I enjoyed that a lot. It is just in a new opportunity for me that I have just enjoyed .

>> A Lindsay, you can enter that or the soapy .

>> For me, I am much older and went through this experience a long time ago so I can provide comedic relief to some of this. I brother Anthony memory would go swimming, I would always when Marco Polo because he could not hear. Other fun things on a more serious note , you're really able to connect with them, your sibling, and a different sort of way. It really starts from the beginning that you don't judge people on the outside because you would not want anyone to judge your sibling on the outside for something like that too. That comes at a very young age and is definitely different for people who do not have a sibling who is deaf or hard of hearing .

>> The next question is what an experience where you feel like you needed to be more included in the family?

>> I just remember when I was younger and my brother would go to therapy , I would always sit in the waiting room with my mother. It would always just sort of be there, I wasn't doing anything or taking a part of anything. I don't know if I knew it at the time, but I felt kind of isolated. Maybe that?

>> Next question?

>> What have you missed out on in order to participate with your sibling ?

>> I don't know if this is necessarily true, but growing up in the back of my mind, I was never convinced we could go on vacation because we had to buy Anthony new hearing aids. Not actually sure if that was true but at 27 I am sure we did go to Florida that one time because we had to buy it. For this question makes me think of what Sophia was talking about, when providers are coming into our home and Anthony and my sister or two who was his twin who was born early and has early intervention providers, I was not necessarily allowed to play with them. I was jealous of them that they had people coming into their home and getting to play with them . I think that is an experience that I can think of.

>> How much is having a deaf or hard of hearing children affect your day-to-day or overall direction of your life?

>> At first for me, it would just add some anxiety and stress to my day when she would go to school, it was not the best environment at first . Once she transferred schools and was in a much better environment and had a closer group of friends, I felt a lot better about it. Just like current day today, when I play around with her or horse around sometimes, I am more careful , when we go to the pool the summer is not that different. Marco Polo, undisputed champion . I feel a lot better that now that has been a couple of years. I don't have any that anxiety or stress , anytime I am with her she is just married to me .

>> I want to do, and say that is really sweet, I never cleaned brothers hearing aids. I will answer this question too. As I mentioned earlier, I'm a pediatric audiologist in my day-to-day life has been impacted significantly it has affected my family life in general. He will be talking again and talking about early intervention , that is not usually tabletop conversation for most families. Everyone in my family has been involved because of our involvement with hands and voices. Having a deaf and hard of hearing sibling has allowed me to connect with families in a different sort of way that other audiologist don't have that same personal experience that I do. I told you guys that I would bring up my quote, I am a Lindsay training a couple of years ago . Almost 79% of siblings with a disability not just hearing loss, 79% of siblings going to helping profession . My other sister as well as a kindergarten teacher , despite their own family be made that statistic .

>> Sophie would answer this one too much this is a great question for everybody .

>> We have time .

>> Kind of just in day-to-day life, I feel nerdy because on the five stages of deafness and what decibel range should be up to here, but people say something about I feel bad for deaf people because they can't hear at all, I can be like that is not true at all because you can have hearing aids and cochlear implants and other kinds of helping technology . I don't know, kind of in day-to-day life , it just makes me a little bit different .

>> I would like to add on that this question actually stemmed from me and Taylor preparing for our last conference . We were talking about fun facts that we could share and Taylor said having a deaf sibling is my fun fact . That just made me realize that having a deaf or hard of hearing sibling is really different for a lot of other people. Sometimes I forget that this is not normal. This doesn't go on every family. Just because I am so used to it. I also would like to point out that when we are in the pool, and brother Harrison was hard of hearing always wants to play Marco Polo. It's not like me dominating that he wants to play .

>> Wow, that is fascinating.

>> Another one that everyone can answer, what were good things that come from attending deaf events or interacting with a deaf or hard of hearing community?

>> It definitely made me a lot more comfortable just in general. At first I was a little scared for my sister , but just being there and seeing everyone else and being around everyone , and not only made me happier and felt more comfortable , it just helped me out in general .

>> That is awesome. My earliest memories from the deaf and hard of hearing community is when I would go visit my brother at his listening and spoken language preschool in Indianapolis. I saw so many kids that were just like him. It brought me a lot of comfort , I'm talking seven, eight, nine, 10. Knowing that there were other people in the world like him brought a lot of comfort to me. Also at the beginning of life, like I mentioned a little bit earlier , I never thought of my brother is having a disability , it was weird. I just assumed it was normal. Growing up I was involved in best buddies and things like that and was able to connect with the community as well.

>> Being a sibling with someone who has a hearing disability, it is kind of made me more comfortable like the other panelist said around other people with disabilities. I know that this could be offensive, I should not do this. This could hurt the child , it could help them and knowing if I see someone with a hearing impairment that I know what to do.

>> I would like to add on, if I do not have deaf or hard of hearing siblings, I will not get to go to events like this .

>> Great answer .

>> The best thing is getting to go to really cool advance in getting to meet really cool people. Also, we are going to get into this on the next slide, but I think I deaf or hard of hearing sibling can really affect your personality .

>> I would agree with that too, I love coming to these events and hanging out with Cole. We live so far away, so it is a great excuse. Interacting with the community, my mom hosts a death camp in our hometown, that is where you are fully immersed in the culture and have to practice my sign which I'm not very good at , that's a really good way to go for it and learn a lot in the day . Also, just as some of the other people said, I feel like I am a more comfortable interacting with people who are deaf or hard of hearing or have other disabilities because my brother has other disabilities. At school or something, there is a special ed program and that also in the halls and obviously the acts differently or in a wheelchair or I don't know, have different volume levels than everybody else. I feel like everyone else stays far away and does not know how to deal with being in that area with the other kids with disabilities and they don't know how to interact with them in a normal way. I feel it just being in the home with someone who is deaf or hard of hearing with disabilities has really helped me see them as other people that go to her school . It is really easy to interact with them on the practice that I get 24/7 with my brother. Trace of siblings with deaf or hard of hearing siblings or siblings with special needs . I wrote that. [Laughter]. I set myself up there. Some positive traits such as great level of maturity or empathy, we can see with everybody that they all seem like very mature, especially Lindsay, very mature for her age. We are just I don't know, not to brag about ourselves, I think we have more patients and tolerance for differences found in other people and flexibility . Like all he has an appointment today, I can pick you up from school , you have to find your way home. No shade to my mom, but something that happens. Just flexibility in finding ways around making sure everything works . Studies show that siblings are helpful to the parents and brother or sister have a great sense of pride and there is a great sense for that. I can agree with that, I feel proud of having that sibling. I don't know, I can just relate to that and I'm sure that you guys can. Cole has questions for the people raising their hands that feel .

>> So, between our panelists, how many bad show of hands see these traits in yourself ?

>> You can raise your hand . You can do that because you are sitting up here and I don't know how many other kids her age, or adults, back just to do so easily and have the confidence to sit in front of a room of people and talk about their experiences .

>> How many in the audience by a show of hands find these traits in their kids? Or, if you are a sibling, in yourself.

>> So, the statistic was right eye think. Now we are going to information that Cole knows a little bit about that is not in my realm .

>> Strategies to recognize siblings as chapter leaders. I am not too versed in this topic, but I have been to shop and that was fun and helpful . These other things, our mom just made us put on here if you want to take a picture for more information, you can do that .

>> Can you explain a similar shop to anybody who doesn't know?

>> So, a sib shop is a group of kids , a group of siblings , with siblings who have disabilities . We just kind of do activities. I think I have been to multiple, but I have only been to one within the past couple of years.

>> There are more of these .

>> You can take a picture of this as well .

>> You don't know what this means, but it is important probably .

>> Or you could just ask our moms about it .

>> They probably know.

>> Thank you so much for coming, we have some questions. If the audience has questions, you can ask them now. We have a good amount of time, so we can bigger on the microphone.

>> If anyone has any questions .

>> I just wanted to say , make sure you look at the room. The amount of enthusiasm and the audience , I am choked up. It is cool .

>> Thank you.

>> Hi, I am Lauren, a teacher of the deaf. I rented this often with parents who are for a lack of a better term guilt parenting with their nondisabled children . What advice would you have ? Look at how those parents when they come to me and say I just feel so bad because my child without hearing loss always feels like to get the short end of the stick? Do you ever feel that way? What can I tell my mom to give her some comfort?

>> I feel like I totally understand that spirit I went to lots of appointments for my brother , especially early in life with not just hearing loss appointments, but other medical needs. I watched cars a lot of times. That was a great childhood of just being in hospitals , watching cars on a laptop with my dad, I don't know. I would not worry too much because I don't know. It feels like you're not giving them enough attention, but it is fun to drive up to Portland , or I guess that is not relatable to everyone else, it is fun to go to a giant building when you're younger and see all the fancy machines that move around. I enjoyed a lot of that , even when they are older . It may not be super exciting for them to go to appointments or events . They are learning how to interact with the community and learning social skills and maybe have a sign or just what to do in situations like that that is very value valuable. We are all awesome and we turned out fine . So your kid, your sibling will also be fine . It will be good.

>> I completely agree about feeling isolated and maybe not getting attention like my brother is. Maybe recommend that they pay for child to attention. If they want to go to the park and fly kites, just something small to balance .

>> Also, little things like going to a park like that have huge impacts. I remember, especially in the moments of a lot of craziness happening with doctors appointments and driving all over the state to go to different doctors and stuff, I went to this carnival where in hindsight , it was not that big or exciting , but I went with my dad one time just because the act can we go? He said sure. That is one of my core memories of getting to take a breather from all the craziness and forgetting about it for two hours writing a Ferris wheel and eating crappy popcorn. That can be a big thing for your kid at that time too.

>> You guys are awesome, it is like a whole some stranger things, I love it. I have a question for you guys, I work in a public school and I get to work with a lot of teachers. A lot of the questions I have are how do we help our peers or typical peers in the school feel comfortable? You guys are probably the best bridge and helping out and help these kids. What advice would you give to a teacher to help train the whole class ? If that makes sense .

>> I am not too versed on the subject, but I would say just kind of being patient and being understanding , that can go a long way . From experience with my brother and a little bit my sister , it helps a lot. Some of those like being a sibling of the deaf or hard of hearing , those traits have just kind of developed in me . Like being helpful to my younger brother who was hard of hearing, probably using those traits with other deaf or hard of hearing kids , that would probably work. Does anyone else have anything that they want to add?

>> I wanted to add something just because when my sister first started going to school with her hearing aids, she was very uncomfortable . That was not mostly because of the teacher, but more because of the kids. She knew how to interact with people, but they may have looked at her differently . I think just the teacher giving the kids a lesson on the disability and all if that is good because not all kids really understand what it means when someone is deaf or hard of hearing , how they go through with that and everything outside of school. Also, just being teacher and checking with that kid after class and stuff like that , just asking how they feel and stuff like that. Making sure that they are comfortable. Also, there are always some kids which is not the nicest of people who suffer from things. Looking out for those kids because sometimes , teachers will look past that and it affects the kid a lot more than you think when that happens and her family at home.

>> I want to let everyone know that we only have four more minutes so two or three more questions maybe .

>> I am so proud of you guys and I know your parents are as well. My question is, have each of you wanted to have your own separate counseling or just talk to someone at the school ? Your advisors? About maybe some of the pressure that you feel , you are the ones that the expert advice and everyone is looking to you to answer some of their questions. Have you got sought out any separate counseling from the things that your siblings are dealing with?

>> Manley, the first year or two when I was not as comfortable , I would mainly just talked to my mom . I go to her for everything . She was always at the events with me whenever I had the chance to go. If I do not pick up on anything, then I know she did. She is always just listening . That helps me a lot talking with my mom. Also just my friends too , just close friends sometimes I feel like that is with the help is the best . Even if you're not that comfortable opening up, sometimes it is the best thing to do and getting out of your comfort zone just so you can be more comfortable in that zone.

>> We can just to show of hands really quickly, it is just my mom really and I think we can all agree with that, just going to them when we feel like maybe , this sounds bad, but we are less important. Especially when I was younger, maybe I felt like I was not as important because of all the attention my brother got. Really we can work to that by talking with her parents in understanding that they need more attention at the time or for a specific reason and it is not because they are more important, it is because they need things to suit their needs .

>> We have time for one more question .

>> For those of you who had early intervention therapists in your home, do you remember how anyone might have included you and made you feel special? If so, what did they do?

>> Yes, I can answer the this one. This is something I use it in my practice as an audiologist today. There will be much involvement with not just me as you are going to the home are coming into your appointment, even at the beginning, step one is to acknowledge the sibling and thank you for being there and interacting with them as well. If you can find any sort of way to include them in the appointment, make them feel like they have a sense of importance , that is step one and two. I make sure my own practice that if any siblings, long, sometimes as a provider it can be like we have a whole other small child to precipitate with which can be challenging. But even making the sibling feel special, let them know that you did such a good job today, even if they are sitting in the corner being quiet, providing them , we love stickers. Including them in any way possible but acknowledge them and thanking them for what they are doing goes a really long way even from a very young age. I think we are out of time.

>> I would like to give a special congratulations to our panelists , especially for remembering a lot of the details because if we did this in New York without her parents being right there , I don't think I would be able to remember most of the things. I want to congratulate them for that . We have some candy for you . Thank you very much.