Cued Speech: Learning to Use Handshapes that Stand for Sound

Read this page to learn what cued speech is, and if it's right for your child.

What cued speech is

- Cued speech is a way for deaf people to "see" spoken English. It was invented to teach deaf children how to read. It helps children "see" the sounds.
- The cued speech method can help children do this:
  o Communicate with other people who use handshapes that stand for all the different sounds in English.
  o Possibly improve their speech.
  o Learn written English.
  o Learn other languages, like Spanish or Chinese.
- Cued speech is not sign language or American Sign language.
  o Cued speech uses handshapes that stand for different sounds.
  o Sign language uses handshapes, facial expressions, and body posture to express different concepts.
- Cued speech can be used with 2 other methods of communication.
  o It can be used with the auditory-oral method (http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/communicating/choices/ao.jsp).
  o It can also be used with the bilingual-bicultural method (http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/communicating/choices/bibi.jsp).

How learning the cued speech method affects children's lives

- Most children who cue go to public school.
- A person called a cued speech transliterator helps them understand what the teacher says.
  o The cued speech transliterator repeats the teacher's words without sound.
  o She uses cues to make her words clearer.
  o She can also "speak" for your child when your child cues back.
How cued speech works

- There are eight different handshapes.
- The handshapes go in one of four places around the face.
- A person reads cueing by looking at the handshape, where it's placed, and how the speaker's lips move.
- For more on how cueing works, go to the Cued Speech Association UK's site (http://www.cuedspeech.co.uk/).

How can I learn cued speech?
Cued speech is not widely used in the U.S. today. You may have trouble finding a transliterator or someone to teach you how to cue. Here are some places to start looking:

- Find a cueing teacher on the National Cued Speech Association's state-by-state list of teachers (http://www.cuedspeech.org/Instructor/Instructor_Directory.html).
- Can't find a cueing teacher or transliterator near you? Call or e-mail the NCSA's information service, Cued Speech Discovery:

  **The National Cued Speech Association**
  23970 Hermitage Road
  Cleveland, OH 44122
  Voice/TTY: (800) 459-3529
  E-mail: cuedspdisc@aol.com

- Learn how to cue online at the Art of Cueing (http://web7.mit.edu/CS/Art).

What other parents say
Read what other parents said about communication choices (http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/meet/parents/communicating.jsp).

Learn more about cued speech

- CuedSpeech.com (http://www.cuedspeech.com/) has resources for people who want to know more about cued speech.
- The ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education (http://ericec.org/digests/e555.html) answers common questions about cued speech.