

### A parent writes:

“ [On reading about Cued Speech], we realised immediately that, without being able to benefit fully from hearing aid or CI technology, CS provided the only way that our son could have a chance to acquire English as a first language during his critical years of language acquisition. We knew that he needed sign to communicate, at least at that stage when he wasn't able to make good use of his implant. But, on reading the advice from the USA, it was clear that, with CS, he could also acquire English. In fact, it was obvious to us that it would be a lot easier for him to learn English as a first full language than to learn BSL, as we could immediately provide a perfect and complete language model and a natural communication environment in cued/spoken English in a way that would probably never be possible for us in BSL....

Thus, for us, CS wasn't a choice; it was a necessity if he was to have the chance to acquire a first full language and fully access our family life. It was the only way that we could avoid him becoming permanently language disabled later in life, the only way that we could enable him to gain the language necessary to support literacy and numeracy when he got to school. We believed that acquiring a complete first language directly and naturally from us as his primary carers was his right, as it would be assumed to be for any hearing child. Without a full first language, we felt that his other fundamental rights would be seriously compromised – his right to family life, his right to literacy and education, his future right to access employment, etc. – and that his social and emotional development and wellbeing would be seriously at risk...

...As his parents, we will always feel relieved that we recognised the importance of his primary language acquisition before it was too late, and, almost by chance, that we found out about the only tool that could make this a possibility for him.

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### Learn Cued Speech in about 20 hours

Parents and professionals can learn Cued Speech in various ways:

- One- or two-day Workshops
- Bespoke courses
- Free e-learning website at: [www.learntocue.co.uk](http://www.learntocue.co.uk)
- Our annual cueing weekend
- 'Skype' sessions for yourself or a small group. The first session is FREE.

Training for professionals is low-cost and can be adapted to your needs.

Please enquire about our bursary fund for parents.

### How can I learn to cue my speech?

Learning to cue is not like learning a new language. Because Cued Speech is a visual version of English – not a language – hearing parents and professionals learn a new way of expressing their own language. There is no new vocabulary or grammar to learn; it's like learning to type if you can already write with a pen.

#### The difference between learning a sign language and learning Cued Speech:

'With Cueing, you quickly learn to express anything, but at an extremely slow rate. With a sign language, you quickly learn to express a very limited set of ideas, at a reasonable speed. With cues, you add to the rate slowly, over a period of months. With signs, you add, slowly, over a period of years, to the number of ideas you can express.'

After about 20 hours of learning-time you should be able to cue any word in the English language, but initially very slowly. More practice is needed to become fluent. Don't worry that your cueing is slow to start with - slow cueing can be helpful to your baby or young child in the early stages.

Young children and babies are not taught to cue; they pick up English by watching it being cued just as hearing children pick up English through listening. Older children can benefit from being taught the system. Our charity can provide tuition in a way best suited to you or your group. This could include face-to-face tuition, e-learning or support through 'Skype'.

**Please contact the CSAUK if you would like information about the evidence and research mentioned in this information sheet.**

### What is Cued Speech?

The name Cued Speech (CS) describes the system of 8 handshapes and 4 positions which completely clarify the lip-patterns of speech. It is quick and comparatively easy to learn.

**Cued Speech is a visual version of English** (and other spoken languages)

Research shows that with CS, 96% of English can be lip-read accurately. With CS, deaf babies and children can see the whole of the English language as clearly as hearing people hear it. Hearing families can use English – visual English - to communicate with their deaf child the same as they would with a hearing child, and as a result their deaf children can learn full language without delay.

**CS complements what deaf babies and children hear through their implant or hearing aid and it works even if they hear nothing!**  
**CS also works well together with BSL.**

**With CS, education is fully accessible** - teachers can use it for literacy, to teach phonics, to access the whole curriculum.

**Using CS restores natural language-learning for deaf children— regardless of what they can hear.**

### Why is Cued Speech (CS) needed?

Without hearing, or with partial hearing, it can be hard to understand English or any other spoken language—just

### A parent writes:

“ When I started to use CS with my deaf baby it was so wonderful to be able to cue whatever I wanted to say and know it was **TOTALLY clear**. Like any baby, he didn't understand it to start with, but quite soon he began to make the association between the cued words (with the addition of the few sounds he could hear) and names, objects, and ideas - just as a hearing baby would. He learnt language at the same pace as his hearing friends and when he started school his language was about the same as the hearing children and his school work showed he was thinking in full English.'

Although he was so deaf that he needed CS to learn English he didn't use it to communicate - he just talked. It was quite hard for strangers to understand him when he was very young but, with the help of a speech and language therapist, his speech became easily understandable by everyone as he grew up. **Name available on request.**

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For training and more information about the use of Cued Speech contact:

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Webs: [www.cuedspeech.co.uk](http://www.cuedspeech.co.uk) &  
[www.learntocue.co.uk](http://www.learntocue.co.uk)



CSAUK is a national charity run by users of Cued Speech (both professionals and parents).  
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# Cued Speech

## The Basics



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## The Basics



### Communication, Language and Speech - the power trio.

**Communication** - is all about interaction; it includes non-verbal (exchanging glances, smiling, pointing, and playing games) and verbal (using language to give or receive information). We need the skills of communication (turn-taking in conversation, talking etc) to interact comfortably with others.

**Language** - is what takes place in our heads - thinking and reasoning in words and sentences (or signs) and it includes understanding and using quite complex grammatical rules. We all need language to think, to order our lives and to express our thoughts (through speech, writing etc.).

**Speech** - for most children hearing speech is the key to language development. When hearing babies' and toddlers' parents and carers talk to them fluently, consistently and about everyday activities they will start to associate a word or phrase with an object or activity. They are learning the English LANGUAGE.

A baby responds, first non-verbally (looking or pointing), then verbally (they speak!!). Parents and carers reply and gradually conversations take place. For hearing people speech is both the first 'way in' to language and the first expression of language. As time goes on parents use increasingly 'grown-up' language and babies learn more language in return.

**The result is a wonderful, communicative, language-learning, virtuous circle.**

And when children start school they have the language they need to learn to read and then they learn yet more language through reading. They have the means to express their language through talking and writing. Another happy virtuous circle!

**For deaf children this can all break down at the very first stage: if they can't hear the speech their parents use, or they hear it indistinctly or intermittently - they don't (or don't easily) learn language.**

**Then, because they don't understand English (or not fully), learning to read and write in English is very hard.**

**For deaf children Cued Speech does the job of speech; it is your speech made visible.**

Speech, in English, is made up of only 44 different sounds or 'phonemes' which, in different combinations, make up all the tens of thousands of words in our language.

When you use Cued Speech you turn the 44 phonemes of speech into visible units which can, like sounds, be combined into words, sentences and, as a result, full language.

When parents of deaf babies learn to cue and use it as they talk naturally with their child they, like hearing children, can learn full language easily and naturally. Most deaf children who learn language through Cued Speech communicate with speech too (although their diction may be poor, especially to start) but some communicate with Cued Speech.

With Cued Speech deaf children can join in with the rest of the family and with unambiguous communication, parents can be effective parents. With an understanding of English deaf children can more easily speak read and communicate in English with people who don't cue.

**With Cued Speech, the language-learning virtuous circle will fall into place - just as it does with hearing children.**

Also because the 44 phonemes of Cued Speech are the same as the 44 phonemes of speech (indeed they are speech with an added 'cue') deaf children can learn to read using the same techniques as hearing children and have equal literacy levels.

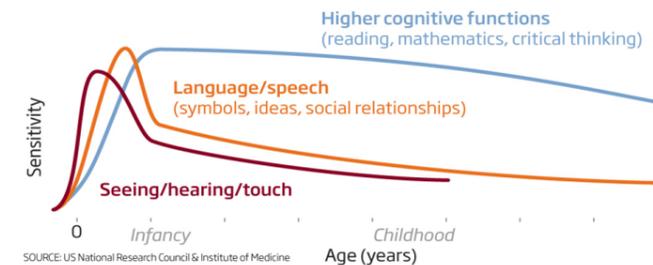
It's best started with babies but never too late to benefit from Cued Speech use.

**CS complements what deaf babies and children hear through their implant or hearing aid, and it works even if they hear nothing!**

Just as hearing children learn a full spoken language through listening to speech, so deaf children can learn a full cued language through watching Cued Speech.



### The importance of early language.



All children need to learn language when they are very young because their brains are most sensitive to language when they are babies and toddlers.

Researchers looking at the general population have found that some parents talked to their children very much more than others and that by the time the children were three years old children with chatty parents had vocabulary around twice that of the group which had less input. This difference in language skills can be seen from infancy and the gap widens with age affecting their literacy and education. This research on hearing children is important for deaf children because if deaf children can't access what is being said to them they are in an even more disadvantageous situation than the worst of the hearing group.

#### How does CS work?

**Put simply, when sounds look the same on the lips (as they are spoken) an accompanying handshape or position will make each lip-pattern look different. For example the sounds /p/ /b/ and /m/ sound quite different to hearing people, but they are indistinguishable by watching the lips. So people who rely on lip-reading alone have no way of distinguishing words such as baby and maybe or pay, bay and may. When you use CS each consonant sound has a different accompanying handshape so each sound now looks quite different. Vowel sounds with confusing lip-patterns are clarified by positions.**

When people speak they join sounds to make words. Similarly, with Cued Speech the handshapes and positions are joined to clarify a word. CS sounds complicated but in practice it's quite easy; there are only 8 handshapes and 4 positions in total. Cued Speech was devised by Orin Cornett in 1966.

And in fact currently deaf children are 42% less likely to do well than hearing children at GCSEs.

#### So... deaf children need:

- parents' conversation with them to start in babyhood
- parents and carers to talk to them as much as they would to a hearing child
- Parents' and carers' language to be totally clear to them.

**Cued Speech will enable hearing parents to deliver these three things, regardless of what children hear—or don't hear—through aids or implants, because:**

- **CS is quick to learn**, so conversation can start in babyhood
- **CS is English, visual English**, so for English-speakers there's no new language to learn, they can talk just as they would to a hearing child

**CS brings lip-reading accuracy up to 96% from about 35%**

#### What can I expect from CS?

With CS deaf babies and children can see the whole of the English language as clearly as hearing people hear it, meaning families can communicate without barriers.

Cued Speech makes education fully accessible for deaf children - teachers can use it for literacy, to teach phonics, to access the whole curriculum.

#### Research shows that:

- **spoken language clarified by Cued Speech can be understood by young deaf babies**
- **deaf children brought up with it can:**
  - make better use of their hearing aids or cochlear implants
  - achieve literacy levels equal to those of hearing children
  - be fully included in everyday conversations with their hearing family
  - develop language at a pace and level which matches hearing peers.
- **Cued Speech can be used:**
  - alongside British Sign Language for true bilingualism
  - to complement aural/oral practices
  - to help deaf children's speech and some speech and language problems in hearing children
  - in schools to give full access to language and education.