Communicating about Communication Options

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Agenda

- Communication Decision-Making
- Developing Spoken Language & Literacy
- Cued Speech as a Spoken Language Option
- What Families and Professionals Need to Know
- Resources
Communication Decisions Following Diagnosis

- Parents must make complex decisions once they learn their child has a hearing loss.
  - Technology, language, and communication choices

- Comprehensive information on the range of options is essential.
Many families choose spoken language routes for communication and literacy.

The foundation of efficient and natural language development and literacy is complete access to the building blocks.

While amplification or cochlear implants can help, complete access to spoken language may require the addition of visual information.
Integrating Visual Information to Enhance Speech Perception

- Auditory information from a CI may be less than optimal.
- Speech perception is a multi-modal event, even for hearing individuals.
- Reducing ambiguity enables easy and efficient communication and language learning.
Facilitating Communication & Language with Cued Speech

- Simple system to add visual information using a language parents already know
- Allows complete immersion in all the critical elements of spoken language
- Access to language = potential for literacy and academic achievement
Components of Cued Speech

- Eight handshapes representing groups of consonants
- Four vowel placements representing groups of vowels
- Used in conjunction with the natural lip movements of speech
- To completely and unambiguously specify phonemes of spoken language
Effects of CS Use

- Communication
- Language Access
- Phonemic Awareness
- Language & Literacy Results
- Evidence Base
Parents and professionals should consider:

- Family’s goals and needs
- Language of the home
- Quality of language input
Sharing CS Info with Parents & Professionals

- Does CS differ from sign systems? YES
  - Linguistic questions
  - Learning process
  - Spoken language component communicated

- Does CS differ from other visual cueing systems, such as Visual Phonics? YES, in important ways
  - Relationship to spoken language
  - Ability to communicate connected language
  - Effects on language skills
Sharing CS Info with Parents & Professionals

- Can CS work prior to or in tandem with CI’s?  YES
  - Primes the spoken language pump
  - Auditory-visual integration
  - Makes the message unambiguous, even in difficult listening situations

- Can my child learn spoken language and ASL?  YES
  - Bilingual-Bicultural models
  - Benefits of access to multiple languages
Sharing CS Info with Parents & Professionals

- Cued Speech in the home
  - Access to the language of the home
  - Ease of communication
  - Early language development

- Cued Speech at school
  - Complete access to classroom information
  - Ramifications for inclusion
Sharing CS Info with Parents & Professionals

- How to Learn
  - Cue Camps
  - Workshops
  - Video/DVD instruction
Resources

National Cued Speech Association

800-459-3529 (v/tty) cuedspeech.org

Cued Speech Discovery: NCSA Bookstore

877-CUE-2030 cuedspeech.com

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