Cued Speech as a Framework for Visual Access to Spoken Language

Jennifer L. Cranston, M.Ed. and Aaron V. Rose, M.S.D.E.

About the Presenters

Jennifer L. Cranston, M.Ed., NIC-A, RID: K-12, EIPA 4.4, VQAS CLT III

- Arlington Public Schools; Gallaudet University

Aaron Rose, M.S.D.E., InsCert

- RMCSA Executive Director; Cue College Administrator

Participants will...

- learn about the Cued Speech framework for providing visual access to spoken languages.
- review the impact of hearing loss on the areas of spoken language development.
- consider language separation in context of American Sign Language and Cued American English.
- list at least three specific strategies to support language development and literacy development in children with hearing loss.
- will identify resources and information to provide on Cued Speech and cued language services.

A Seat at the Table? - EI SNAPSHOT Report

- 10% population growth since 2008 (Gallaudet report, 2008
 - cite via GAO)
- Significant disparity in quality of information on Cued
 Speech compared to other communication choices.

EI SNAPSHOT

Early Intervention for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Systematic Nationwide Analysis of Program Strengths, Hurdles, Opportunities, and Trends

Chart 4. Family Report of Quality of Information Provided About Communication Choices Upon Diagnosis

	Percentage of Families Reporting Quality of Information						
Communication Modality	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor			
Listening and Spoken Language	46%	30%	10%	14%			
Sign Language	38%	29%	17%	17%			
Total Communication	36%	28%	15%	21%			
Cued Speech	22%	21%	25%	32%			

Cued Speech - 22% excellent, 32% Poor

	Communication Modality	Percentage of Families
12% of	Listening and Spoken Language only	49%
families	Sign Language only	3%
reported	Mostly Listening and Spoken Language (supplemented by sign language, cued speech, or other)	17%
using mostly Cued	Mostly Sign Language (supplemented by listening and spoken language, cued speech, or other)	3%
Speech	Mostly Cued Speech (supplemented by listening and spoken language, or other)	12%
	Equal Parts Sign Language and Listening and Spoken Language (including total communication)	14%
	Other	1%

What does Visual Access to Spoken Language look like?





Theory of Cued Speech

- "What looks the same on the mouth must look different on the hands" - Dr. R. Orin Cornett
- Show spoken language visually with accuracy in real time
- Up to 3 or 4 phonemes associated with each handshape or hand placement (easier for memory retention)

- Components of speech:
 - Mouth shape
 - Voice/Air
 - Tongue Placement
- What's the difference?
 - /b/ and /p/?
 - /s/ and /z/?
 - /ee/ and /i/

Spoken Language Construct/Phonology





Consonant-Vowel Pairs

 Spoken languages are traditionally expressed in syllables or consonant-vowel pairs

Cat	Caterpiller		
/k a t/	/k a t uh p l l er/		
/ka t/	/ka tuh pi ler/		
/CV C/	/CV CV CV CV/		

Decoding and Recoding

- Retrain your brain: decode phonemically
 - Disregard spelling, focus on articulation
- With consistent practice, **expressive cueing** can become **more natural**
- Receptive cueing may take more effort depending on the person

Terminology in Cued Speech

Cued Speech - the official name for the visual communication system that includes all cued languages

cued language - refers to the visual languages conveyed through Cued Speech

cued English - not specific enough (which English?)

Terminology in Cued Speech

Cued American English - specific cued language.

cuem - a cue that includes both handshape and hand placement

cued language transliterator - provides access to spoken language through cueing (CLTs for short)





Benefits of Cued Speech

- Language immersion and literacy development
- Ancillary benefits: aural rehabilitation, speech articulation, social communication, foreign language learning, etc
- Relatively easy to learn and gain fluency

Using Cued Speech for Access

 Build Capacity for Cued Language Services



- Rural programs versus metro public schools
- Access at Home
 - Some parents consistently cue at home while others use it sparingly.

Using Cued Speech for Access



- Access at School
 - Direct instruction in special education versus direct access to general education (CLTs)
- Family versus Educational Team Perspective
 - Everyone involved needs to provide consistent access in the child's modality or modalities.

How does hearing loss impact spoken language development?

The 5 Domains of LanguageFORM: PhonologyHOW DO WE CREATE
THE MESSAGE?FORM: MorphologyWHAT DOES THE
MESSAGE ENTAIL?CONTENT:
SemanticsWHAT DO WE INTEND
WITH OUR MESSAGE?

Factors to Consider for Spoken Language/Literacy

- 90% born to hearing parents only 10% hereditary (Moores, 1987)
- Critical years for language development: birth to age 5 (Krashen, 1973)
- What kind of issues do we often see in the "reading to learn" process for D/HH children?

Factors to Consider for Spoken Language/Literacy

- Perspectives on acquiring new languages through assessments
 - 1-3 years = Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills (BICS)
 - 5-7 = Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency (CALP) (Cummins, 2008)
- Access to spoken language a critical factor in outcomes related to communication and literacy



Getting the Full Picture: Audiological Perspectives

- Medical/Technological interventions not always effective due to additional factors (Berlin, 2012)
- Research in Europe reinforces the idea of Cued Speech as an effective way to enhance speech perception for individuals with cochlear implants (Leybaert, Colin, & Hage 2010)



DISCLAIMER: SPEECH VS LANGUAGE

- Can develop meta awareness of spoken language and still have atypical speech articulation
- Speech dependent on quality of auditory input
- Cued Speech = visual model of spoken language
- Visual Phonics = articulation mechanics/phonetics

How do we maintain Language Separation Between ASL & English?

Research Highlights re: ASL & English access

- Deaf, sign-only students' English literacy skills have significantly lagged behind their hearing peers for several decades.
- There are situations where **access to the** *form* of the source language is crucial. (foreign language analogy)

Research Highlights re: ASL & English access

- Interpreters working in educational settings are grappling with how to provide access to phonological information in mainstream classes.
- The strategies educational interpreters use to provide access to phonological information *may be detrimental* to the students' outcomes.

Research Highlights re: ASL & English access

 The use of systems providing *accurate* visual representations of the phonology of a spoken language can have a *positive impact* on English acquisition, development & literacy.





Educational Interpreters + Literacy

- Access is a critical factor in students' educational outcomes
- Spectrum of "Access":
 - ASL
 - Cued Speech
 - MCE systems (SEE, CASE)
 - Visual Phonics

Educational Interpreters + Literacy

- Research on Cued Speech indicates
 - Cued languages can facilitate typical spoken language/literacy development
 - Native cuers are highly flexible communicators and places a strong value on literacy skills.

Educational Interpreters + Literacy

- Interpreters' perspectives on Visual Phonics indicates
 - importance of phonics in emergent literacy skills (learning to read),
 - **lack of strong agreement** on vocabulary, reading comprehension, test performance

A Quantitative Look: Educational Interpreters' Perspectives





Improves....?

- Phonics
- Phonemic Awareness
- Decoding
- Word Recognition -
- Vocabulary -
- Alphabetic Principle
- Reading Comprehension Reading Engagement
- Spelling

- Speech - Performance on
- Curriculum-based Assessments
- Performance on Standardized
- Assessments
- Other areas





PERCEPTIONS ABOUT UTILIZATION **OF VISUAL PHONICS**

(any states)	Ease of Use	Engages	Ease of Integration	More Access	Effective for All DHH	Appropriate for Preschool	Appropriate fo Elementary
Agree Strongly	35%	38%	26%	59%	12%	52%	70%
Agree Somewhat	48%	32%	32%	28%	25%	20%	20%
■ Agree a litte	11%	17%	19%	6%	19%	10%	8%
Disagree a little	3%	2%	7%	2%	9%	2%	0%
Disagree somewhat	2%	3%	9%	0%	10%	2%	0%
Disagree Strongly	0%	0%	3%	1%	12%	0%	1%
□ N/A or Unsure	1%	8%	5%	4%	14%	14%	2%

	FERC	OF	VISUAI	L PHO	NICS	ATION	
Appropriate for Middle School	Appropriate for High School	Improves Phonics	Improves Phonemic Awareness	Improves Decoding	Improves Vocabulary	Improves Reading Comprehension	Improves Othe Subjects
48%	39%	58%	55%	42%	30%	24%	21%
18%	16%	26%	29%	24%	22%	23%	24%
13%	18%	9%	5%	8%	12%	14%	16%
5%	8%	2%	3%	3%	10%	6%	3%
2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	4%	11%	4%
1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	2%
12%	14%	4%	6%	21%	20%	20%	30%



Takeaways: Educational Interpreters

- Responses varied = interpreters don't have uniform approach to conveying English phonology.
- In many cases, interpreters are under false impression they are addressing the issue.

Takeaways: Educational Interpreters

- We need more education and research on:
 - Interpreters' roles & skills in education
 - equitable access to source languages
 - best practices and strategies for supporting language and literacy development in DHH children.

Programs Using a New Approach: Complete Bilingualism

- Illinois School for the Deaf
 - Started with voluntary pilot program 2010 at the high school level
 - ASL & Cued English IEP team decision
 - **Literacy Growth rates**: Time span = one year
 - Sign-only group: 2 months
 - ASL & CAE: one year, some up to two years
 - (www.illinoisdeaf.org)

Programs Using a New Approach: Complete Bilingualism

<u>United Kingdom</u>

- British Sign Language (BSL) & Cued American
 English for English as a foreign language
- Even late and limited exposure to CAE for deaf signing pupils demonstrated significant improvements in English literacy.
- (Calder & Worsfold, 2014)

Programs Using a New Approach: **Complete** Bilingualism

- Foreign Language Analogy
- Minnesota Public Schools Intermediate District #917 Content delivery = IEP team decision
 - Program-wide since 1996
 - Literacy gains in one year in grade equivalence
- NAT'L D/HH= 0.2 VŠ District 917=1.0
- Writing samples included in (Kyllo, 2010)

Benefits of a Complete Bilingual Approach

- <u>Literacy Growth rates</u>: greatly surpasses use of sign alone
- <u>Home language</u>: connection with family, prevents feelings of isolation, promotes feelings of inclusion (BICS, CALP)
- Increased intellect and cognitive abilities: knowing more than one language stimulates more areas of the brain

Benefits of a Complete Bilingual Approach

- Cultural Identity: singular or multiple
 - Home culture intertwined with home language
 - Deaf culture intertwined with ASL
 - Majority-language Culture intertwined with English

Cue Culture and Deaf Culture

- Cue Culture is interconnected with many communities and Deaf Culture
- Some native cuers identify strongly with Deaf culture while others don't
- Cuers are still seeking widespread acceptance within Deaf Culture



Strategies for Spoken Language

Consider what we already do as role models of spoken language...

JUST CUE IT!

Phonology and Phonemic Awareness

- As a beginner, focus on accuracy instead of speed
- Nursery rhymes and songs are easy ways to show different phonemes and patterns.
- Consider literacy time as "cueing time" to reinforce multiple targets within lessons or at home.

Phonology and Phonemic Awareness

- Reinforce the Alphabetic Principle "the letter A makes the sound /a/"
- Cue other types of text found in the environment (street signs)
- Reinforce the idea that we can "sound out" what we read or spell.

Morphology and Semantics

- As a beginner, cue specific words for emphasis.
- Draw attention to difference in endings -
 - ex: "s" /s/ vs /z/
- Reinforce vocabulary words within text.
- Expand on topics in books by relating to personal experiences.
- Ask questions that check for vocabulary retention, use of correct syntax, and comprehension.

Syntax + Pragmatics

- Work towards cueing at a conversational level to show complex language.
- Use prosody to reinforce pragmatics (non-manual markers, facial expressions)
- Ask questions in different ways and model correct syntax/grammar as needed.



Cued Speech and Cued Language Resources

- National Cued Speech Association
 <u>www.cuedspeech.org</u>
 - Multiple state-level chapters and affiliates
- Rocky Mountain Cued Speech Association -<u>www.rockymountaincuedspeech.org</u>
 - (AZ, CO, WY, SD, ND, MT, ID, UT)

Cued Speech and Cued Language Resources

- CueSign, Inc www.cuesign.org
 - Focused on supporting access to both ASL and Cued American English
- Cue College <u>www.cuecollege.org</u>
 - Online Cued Speech Instruction and E-store
- DailyCues <u>www.dailycues.com</u>
 - Educational resources and games for Cued Speech fluency

Cued Language Transliterators

- TECUnit <u>www.tecunit.org</u>
 - National certifying body for cued language transliterators
- Language Matters, Inc - <u>www.languagemattersinc.com</u>
 - Cued language transliteration services and training

Cued Language Transliterators

- Cue For You, LLC <u>cueforyou@gmail.com</u>
 - $\circ~$ Video Remote CLT services
- Cued Language Access, LLC - <u>www.cuedlanguageaccess.com</u>
 - CLT services Colorado/surrounding states
- Cued Access, LLC <u>www.cuedaccess.com</u>
 - CLT services Minnesota

QUESTIONS?

References

- Alegría, J., Dejean, K., Capouillez, J. M., & Leybaert, J. (1990). Role played by cued speech in the identification of written words encountered for the first time by deaf children: A preliminary report. *Cued Speech Journal*, *4*, 4-9.
- Berlin, Charles (personal communications, January 29, 2012) The Cutting Edge: Implants, Auditory Neuropathy, Literacy, Visual Phonics, and Cued Speech, Chicago, IL Calder, C., & Worsfold, A (2014). Complete Bilingualism. Charlier, B. L., & Leybaert, J. (2000). The rhyming skills of deaf
- children educated with phonetically augmented speechreading. *The Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology: Section A*, 53(2), 349-375.
- Cummins, J. (2008). BICS and CALP: Empirical and theoretical status of the distinction. In *Encyclopedia of language and education* (pp. 487-499). Springer US.
- Krashen, S. D. (1973). Lateralization, language learning, and the critical period: Some new evidence. Language learning. 23(1). 63-74.

References

- Kyllo, K. (2010). A bilingual (ASL and cued American English) program for deaf and hard of hearing students: Theory to practice. Cued Speech and cued language for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, 375-417.
- Lane, H., Hoffmeister, R., & Bahan, B. J. (1996). A journey into the deaf-world (p. 560). San Diego, CA: DawnSignPress.
- NCHAM (2018). El SNAPSHOT Early Intervention for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Systematic Nationwide Analysis of Program Strengths, Hurdles, Opportunities, and Trends. Retrieved from National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management: http://www.infanthearing.org/ei-snapshot/docs/ei-snapshot-final-repo rt.pdf

References

- LaSasso, C., Crain, K., & Leybaert, J. (2003). Rhyme generation in deaf students: The effect of exposure to cued speech. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 8(3), 250-270.
- Moores, D. F. (2001). Educating the deaf: Psychology, principles, and practices.
- Narr, R. F. (2008). Phonological awareness and decoding in deaf/hard-of-hearing students who use Visual Phonics. *Journal of* Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, 15, 1-12.
- Narr, R. F., & Cawthon, S. W. (2011). The "wh" questions of Visual Phonics: What, who where, when, and why. Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, 16(1), 66-78.

References

- NCHAM (2018). EI SNAPSHOT Early Intervention for Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Systematic Nationwide Analysis of Program Strengths, Hurdles, Opportunities, and Trends. Retrieved from National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management: http://www.infanthearing.org/ei-snapshot/docs/ei-snapshot-final-report .pdf
- Stokoe Jr, W. C. (2005). Sign language structure: An outline of the visual communication systems of the American deaf. *Journal of deaf*
- studies and deaf education, 10(1), 3-37. Trezek, B. J., & Malmgren, K. W. (2005). The efficacy of utilizing a phonics treatment package with middle school deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education, 10(3), 256-271.

References

- Trezek, B. J., & Wang, Y. (2006). Implications of utilizing a phonics-based reading *Deaf* curriculum with children who are deaf or hard of hearing. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Education*, *11*(2), 202-213.
 Cranston, J (2019) When Form Matters: Providing Linguistic Access to Foster Deaf Students' Proficiency in ASL & English. National Association for Interpreters in Education annual conference, Greeley, CO