



## **Cued Speech and Cochlear Implants**

### *A Position Statement of the National Cued Speech Association*

For many persons who are deaf, the rapidly advancing technology of cochlear implants significantly increases access to the auditory information necessary to process speech and language. The decision to implant a child or undergo implantation is complex. It requires an understanding of the potential risks and benefits involved, as well as a commitment to the programming and training necessary to optimize results. The parents and/or implant candidate also need reliable information about evaluations and recommendations from experienced medical and educational professionals, as well as feedback from other parents and cochlear implant recipients.

The National Cued Speech Association (NCSA) supports literacy and language development through the use of Cued Speech. Use of cued language pre-implantation allows uninterrupted language development and has been proven to maintain active language processing in the auditory cortex. Continued use of cued language after implantation facilitates the process of learning listening and spoken language skills through auditory channels by providing visual clarification and confirmation of what the person hears through the implant.

Cued Speech allows the implant recipient to match the cues to new auditory information and assimilate it into his/her internal phoneme map. Cueing also provides an unambiguous message when competing input or background noise is present, when the implant is not in use, or when the implant recipient is at a distance from the speaker. Additionally, cueing facilitates and accelerates new language development of traditionally spoken languages, including vocabulary, grammatical structures, and idiomatic expressions. Use of Cued Speech also serves as an effective intervention and support when used by Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Speech-Language Pathologists in supporting listening and spoken language development of children who are deaf/hard of hearing.

The NCSA believes that accurate and fluent cueing, in conjunction with the cochlear implant, enables the implant recipient to obtain maximum long-term educational and linguistic benefits.

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