Phonemic awareness, the ability to recognize and manipulate phonemes, is a significant predictor of literacy. For both deaf and hearing children, visual access to phonology can provide this foundation for learning to read. Cued Speech has been an effective and efficient means to provide access to spoken language at the phonemic level for more than 50 years. Visual Phonics: See the Sound has emerged more recently as another visual cueing system designed to represent elements of spoken language. While these two approaches to conveying spoken language share some characteristics, there are important differences. This presentation will include an overview of the essential components of both systems and will compare and contrast their usefulness in building phonemic awareness and other skills critical to literacy. We will also review the evidence base for both systems.

The NCSA supports a community of cuers who have come together to promote language accessibility through Cued Speech. NCSA is a 501c3 non-profit charity as designated by the IRS.