

Minnesota Cues Flash

A quarterly newsletter by the Cued Speech Association of Minnesota

In This Issue...

- What did you say??!! 1
- CS Beach Day Pictures 1
- Splash into Cued Speech ... 2
- Cue Clips on YouTube 3
- Cue at the Zoo Pictures 3
- CUE IT! Puzzler 3
- Events Calendar 4

Contact Us...

Katherine Burns-Christenson

Co-President
952-929-3965
kbc29@aol.com

Sarah Druley, Co-President
763-502-6737
sarahdruley@yahoo.com

Joan Boddicker, Co-Secretary
952-442-8674
JoanMBoddicker@mchsi.com

Stephen Stadelman, Treasurer
952-894-0469
mstadelman@earthlink.net

Beth Des Marais, Co-Secretary
612-729-6424
bethmarv@msn.com

Kitri Larson Kyllö, At Large
952-707-3090
kitri.kylo@isd917.k12.mn.us

Minnesota Cues Flash
Edited by Kristine Burns and
Katherine Burns-Christenson,
designed/produced
by Mary Stadelman



What did you say??!!

by Katherine Burns-Christenson

Once my daughter used a, shall we say, "colorful" expression incorrectly. Oh, she had the context right. She had the intonation right. However, it was the speech production that was a tad off. Clearly, she'd misheard the word. It even took me a minute to get what word she was trying to express. Colorful indeed! I remember I paused and then cued the correct pronunciation. She looked perplexed. She repeated it back to me, albeit with less colorful expression this time. I paused again and took the time to explain the word, expression, appropriateness, etc.

When I share this story with my friends I get a mixed response.

"You didn't really teach her how to say that!" or "See, hearing loss has a gift—she can't always hear our ugly words," or "Wow! It wouldn't have occurred to me to teach that." Well, until I had a child with a hearing loss a lot of things didn't occur to me. Who thought I'd be teaching my child how and when to whisper, how and when to use slang, and how powerful language is when it comes to defining our social group and niche.

When I think back to my high school and college years, I am peppered with the slang and catch phrases of my generation. We all have them. Throw in my family's unique phrases and inside jokes and it's a cornucopia of expression.

Who wants to be the only kid who doesn't "get" the joke, the phrase, or sub-culture? It is one of the things that I so love about cued speech; the ability to give that access in real time to my daughter.

Someday, I hope she'll be teaching me phrases. I look forward to being the "dorky" mom; the mom who uses my children's generational slang incorrectly and clearly at all the wrong times. When I've reached that status, remind me, please that I've done a good job because she has access to a generation and a sub-culture all her own. I probably won't like all of it, I won't understand a fair amount of it, but I certainly want her to!

Cued Speech Beach Day!



Splash into Cued Speech!

Paige's version:

It all happened in a second. But where did it take place? A Brainerd resort called the Quarterdeck. It took place, if you want to be super-accurate, on the Quarterdeck's beach. It all started like this: I was with my cousin Zoe (all my cousins and my grandparents were there, too), and we were rock hunting on the beach. There's a great lake there. Anyway, I liked to look for the biggest rocks. But the problem was, they were all out really deep. So, coming back from putting a rock on a picnic table (like I did with all the other rocks), I ran straight into the lake, causing a big splash, which drenched all my clothes and my implant! I could tell right away something was wrong. The loud lake was suddenly silent, like everyone had left. My mom came running out. We took my implant off, and I thought everything was fine. But then I had to get out, because all of the big rocks were in the deep water. And then we tried on my implant. There was no sound. We checked every possible place that something could be wrong. No luck. We switched the channel buttons. Still no luck. By now, I was frustrated. Nothing was working, and it seemed... Seemed like the whole trip was going down in smoke.

We finally discovered something-but something not so good. The implant had gotten so soaked it probably

would never work again. So now it was time for Plan B: Cued Speech. I was excited when we decided my dad would drive 6 hours to get my replacement (which we hadn't packed) but that meant my mom would have to be like a transliterator and cue everything. And there was a kid event in fifteen minutes!

When we got to the kids event, which was making rockets out of bottles, a rocket seemed to explode for me. Even though I couldn't hear, I could hear in a different way: Cued Speech. Suddenly, all that frustration seemed to evaporate. I was having fun! All that was different was that I had to look at my mom. And by the time my dad arrived hours later, I was comfortable with looking at my mom. Cued Speech saved the day.

P.S. to kids: Be careful with wearing implants in sand or water. You never know what might happen!

Mom's version:

As I read my daughter's account of that morning, I smile. I smile recalling her resilience. Oh, don't get me wrong, there were tears... lots of tears from Paige early on. There was panic, shock, and disbelief. I recall how I became eerily calm as I raced like an Olympic athlete to the water to fish her out. In seconds the cochlear implant was off and her hearing aid was in my hand. I sat down at the neighboring



Paige and her cousins playing by the lake.

picnic table to discover water oozing from her hearing aide battery compartment, but I didn't notice anything amiss with her cochlear implant. It seemed relatively dry. I sighed. I felt relief.

Then we put her cochlear implant back on. She screamed. "It's static! It's loud! Now I can't hear anything! My vacation is ruined! I want to HEAR my cousins! I want to HEAR." Then she sobbed. My husband and I stared silently at one another. It was our first day of vacation. This was quite a start. He silently grabbed the keys to the car. A six-hour round trip drive lay before him. At home we had extra everything; processor, battery, headpiece and cords. I never dreamed we'd need them. Note to self; pack extra "everything" next vacation.

I reminded Paige that I would cue everything as I tried to comfort her. "Can you tell everyone else to cue too?" she begged. I felt a pang in my heart. We both knew that I was her primary communication link. I nodded and promised I would ask our extended family to cue too. Paige held her chin

high, wiped away her tears and declared, "Sometimes you just have to make the best of things!" Wow. Paige, I will always love and admire your spirit.

As I transitioned to my pseudo-transliterator role, I recalled a discussion I'd had with a professional years earlier. He told me Cued Speech was my "bad habit" and pushed my family to move to a more auditory-verbal communication choice. Our family refused. There are too many times when Cued Speech provides access that my daughter can't receive through her eyes or equipment alone. I remember arguing about broken equipment, background noise, equal access, and so on. We agreed to disagree.

That day, I've never been so grateful for a "bad habit" in all of my life. I continue to hold fast to the importance of Cued Speech in our family. Bad habits in this case reign supreme. Positive attitude and resilience go a long way too. Oh, the lessons you learn from your children!

Cue Clips on YouTube

Cued Speech is relatively new in the world of Deaf Education. As a result, many people have never heard of it, and even fewer understand what it is. Fortunately, there are new websites providing written and video information demonstrating Cued Speech and explaining its benefits. One such site is YouTube.

The National Cued Speech Association produced the video "Breaking the Code unlocking the CUerriculum" and posted the video on YouTube. In the past 12 months or so there have been 77 comments posted about the video. The comments have been varied. Many comments, from parents and educators, as well as from deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals, are very positive. Other comments are critical of Cued Speech and state their fear that Cued Speech is meant to replace American Sign Language (ASL). Following are some of the unedited comments that have been posted on YouTube.

sabriel430 posted the following comment:
all I can say is wow! I am going to school now to become a teacher of the deaf and all they talk about is learning how to sign and that's great and all but it was very interesting to see something so different. I am hard of hearing myself and if I would have learned cued speech in highschool I think I would have done a lot better in school. People definitely need to be given more options and this is really interesting. Thank you!

The first post to the video stated,
"Cued Speech + Cochlear Implant = AUDISM against Deaf people! Linguicide of ASL!"

A comment posted by Tar2006 expressed concern about Cued

Speech being used instead of ASL:

If I were Board of Education for that school I will throw Cued Speech program out of the window in big time. I DEMAND put ASL in that program period! This is just disgusted me to see how much you abused their Deaf children's education by using Cued Speech which is unofficial recognized as language. Someone please delete this video.

Fortunately, there have been other comments posted that help alleviate those fears. Katrinsf put it very well in this comment:

I'm deaf and understand your point. ASL will be used to communicate with the deaf community- and will never be replaced. I support using Cued Speech in addition to ASL. Cued Speech is a visual code to access spoken languages. Having both is great! The more language experience you have in a language, the more you will access English or any other language. Isn't it time to immerse yourself to another language next to ASL? It's not about ASL or CS- it is a great tool to access any spoken language!

All in all, it is good to see that there is discussion going on about Cued Speech. Other Cued Speech videos have been added to YouTube as well. There is a children's story done in Cued Speech with no voice, for people who want to practice cue reading. There is also a video in ASL discussing how to sign "Cued Speech" and why cued speech really doesn't have anything to do with speech at all.

Before people start using Cued Speech they need to know about it. So watch a YouTube video, make a comment, post a link on your Facebook page, and e-mail a link to your friends and family. Spread the "Cues".



CUE at the ZOO!



www.cuedspeechminnesota.org

CSAM is now posting Minnesota employment opportunities which require Cued Speech skills. To view the postings or inquire about posting a position, click on "Job Postings" on our website!

☞☞☞☞ CUE IT! ☞☞☞☞

5m, 2s, 6t, 1s, 5t, 4s, 5s

Answer: Equipment

Cued Speech Association of Minnesota

6017 Kellogg Ave.
Edina, MN 55424

stamp



August	September	October	November
<p>Saturday, Aug. 2 Cue S'Mores Lebanon Hills Campground in Apple Valley</p> <p>Sundays, Aug. 17, 31 @ 9:30 am Transliterated Worship Diamond Lake Lutheran Church 5760 Portland Ave. So. Minneapolis</p>	<p>Sundays, Sept. 7, 14 @ 9:30 am Transliterated Worship Diamond Lake Lutheran Church</p> <p>Sundays, Sept. 21, 28th @ 11 am Transliterated Worship Diamond Lake Lutheran Church 5760 Portland Ave. So.</p>	<p>Sundays, Oct. 5, 12, 26 @ 11 am Transliterated Worship Diamond Lake Lutheran Church 5760 Portland Ave. So. Minneapolis</p> <p>Tuesday, Oct. 21 Practice Cue Clutch*</p>	<p>Sundays, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 @ 11 am Transliterated Worship Diamond Lake Lutheran Church 5760 Portland Ave. So. Minneapolis</p> <p>Saturday, Nov. 8 9:30 am to 12:30 pm "Cued English: A Bridge to Literacy."</p> <p>Tuesday, Nov. 18 Practice Cue Clutch*</p>

Minnesota Hands & Voices and the Cued Speech Association of Minnesota (CSAM) will present
"Cued English: A Bridge to Literacy"
Saturday, Nov. 8, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm • Lifetrack Resources, 709 University Ave. W., St. Paul

Presenters Ann Mayes and Kitri Larson Kylo of Intermediate School District 917 will explain how Cued English can improve understanding of the English language for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Due to response from our members, CSAM * Minnesota Hands and Voices will be co-presenting an exciting educational event on November 8, "Cued English: A Bridge to Literacy." As a result, the Fall Festival will take a year off to give us more planning and resource time.
Look for our next social event—Cueing Santa in December!

* **Practice Cue Clutch**, 6:30-8:00 pm, Java Jacks, 818 W. 46th Street, Mpls. (46th St. & Bryant Ave.)