

Achieving Success

Parents experiences with Cued Speech Clarifying the language of the home



Alex is an 11 year old profoundly deaf child with a cochlear implant. His mother stumbled across Cued Speech when searching for alternatives to improve her son's ability to communicate. Read her story of how Cued Speech helped her son clarify the speech of his home setting and go on to excel in his class at a school for the deaf.

“ Alex is now 11 and he was diagnosed just after his 5th birthday with bilateral profound deafness and has had a cochlear implant for nearly six years. Having struggled with Sign Supported English and getting nowhere fast, I started researching alternatives and fell across Cued Speech. Cued Speech makes complete sense to me as it gives deaf children access to full speech sounds. The main reason I learnt to cue was to help Alex with literacy. However, I soon found that it helped him with lip reading and was really useful for communicating with Alex when background sound meant he couldn't make sense of sound with his implant.

The implant was working well until a problem occurred at Christmas and it was removed in early February. Due to issues with the skin in the implant area, Alex was implanted on the opposite side. As a result he had no implant for 6 weeks and now has to learn to hear with the other side. Alex attends a boarding school for deaf children during the week and I use Cued Speech at weekends to clarify words, help him with pronunciation and help with his reading. We were very concerned that Alex would really struggle between implants, but were very pleased to find that his lip reading was exceptionally good. As long as he could see us, he could understand practically everything we said. I have observed that his peers at school are not able to lip read this well which I put down to using Cued Speech.



Another fascinating thing was that even though Alex had no sound, I could still use Cued Speech as before to help pronunciation. For the 6 weeks, I was still able to help Alex with reading using Cued Speech and he continued to progress with his reading as before.



Alex was very keen for me to cue to him as much as possible. Bear in mind I am the only cuer in the family and I'm competent, but not brilliant at it, I have found this experience with Alex recently fascinating. His teachers and the cochlear implant centre have all commented on how well he has coped without sound. He is making steady progress with the new implant but it will take a while. In the meantime, I am very grateful for my 'Cued Speech' toolkit! I am very grateful to the charity for giving me the opportunity to learn Cued Speech and to Cate in particular for keeping me going with it a few years ago when I was struggling. I just couldn't 'hear' the phonetic sounds and translate them in some cases, but Cate [our Cued Speech tutor] got me sorted and drove me on!

”

Names available on request. Printed with permission by The Cued Speech Association UK.

For training and more information about the use of Cued Speech please contact us:

The Cued Speech Association UK (CSAUK)
The Forces, Forces Cross, Blackawton, Devon TQ9 7DJ
Tel: 01803 712853
Email: info@cuedspeech.co.uk
Web: www.cuedspeech.co.uk &
www.learntocue.co.uk

