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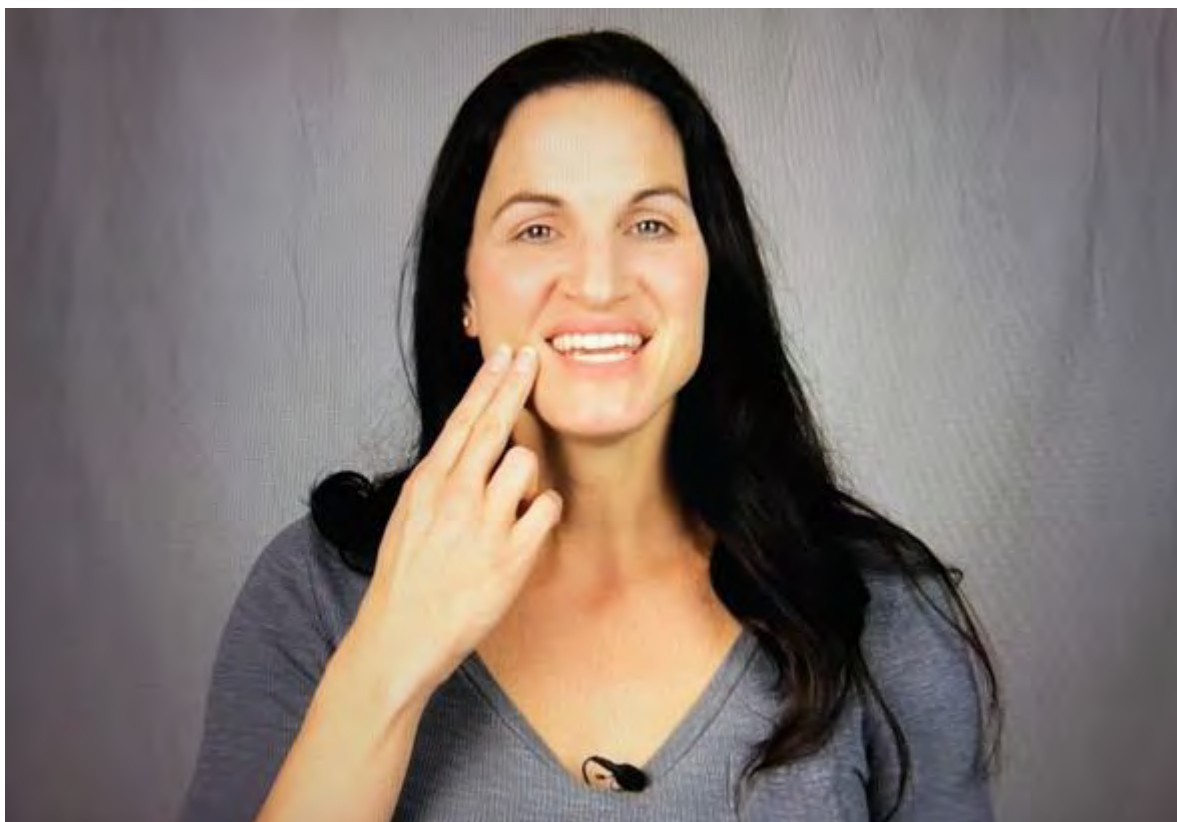
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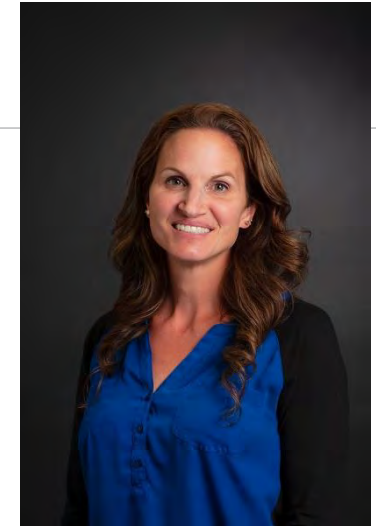
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Cued Speech: What it is and Why it Matters? In Partnership With RIT/National Technical Institute for the Deaf

A Professional Overview for Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists





Jill Burress, M.S., CCC-SLP

Jill Burress, M.S., CCC-SLP, Nationally Certified Interpreter for the Deaf (NIC), is Senior Lecturer and Director of the ASL-English Interpretation Program at RIT's NTID. With more than two decades of experience as a communication access professional, she leverages her dual credentials in speech-language pathology and sign language interpreting to foster inclusive communication pathways for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. Jill teaches courses in ASL-English Interpreting and Cued Speech and is committed to bridging the disciplines of audiology, speech-language pathology, and deaf-education to promote equitable access, empower independence, and advance best practices in educational settings.

Disclosures

- **Presenter Disclosure:** Financial: Jill Burress is employed by Rochester Institute of Technology, National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Non-financial: Jill Burress is a member of the National Cued Speech Association.
- **Content Disclosure:** This learning event does not focus exclusively on any specific product or service.
- **Sponsor Disclosure:** This Course is presented in partnership with Rochester Institute of Technology, National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

Limitations/Risks

- The applicability and accuracy of the course content may vary by the clinical, geographical, and cultural context; you should evaluate the course accordingly.
- As healthcare is rapidly evolving, new findings may change the validity of the information presented in this course. Providers should always consult the latest research and guidelines from professional associations.
- The interventions discussed in this course may be limited in generalizability, requiring practitioners to consider specific individual and population factors.
- The course may not cover all possible risk factors, diagnostic methods, or treatment options, and complex cases may require additional considerations.
- Healthcare providers should apply cultural competence and sensitivity to ensure effective and respectful care based on their patients' diverse needs.
- Providers should always evaluate the limitations of diagnostic and screening tools, considering their potential for false results as well as any ethical implications.
- It is the responsibility of course participants to critically evaluate the evidence from multiple sources to guide professional practice.

Learning Outcomes

After this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify the key components and handshape–placement combinations that make up the Cued Speech system for English.
- Explain how Cued Speech enhances speech perception, language development, and literacy outcomes for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, referencing current research findings.
- Identify opportunities within speech-language and audiology practice where Cued Speech can be incorporated to support communication, counseling, and family education.

Welcome & Overview

- Why Cued Speech
- What we'll cover today
- Who this session is for
- How to think about Cued Speech clinically

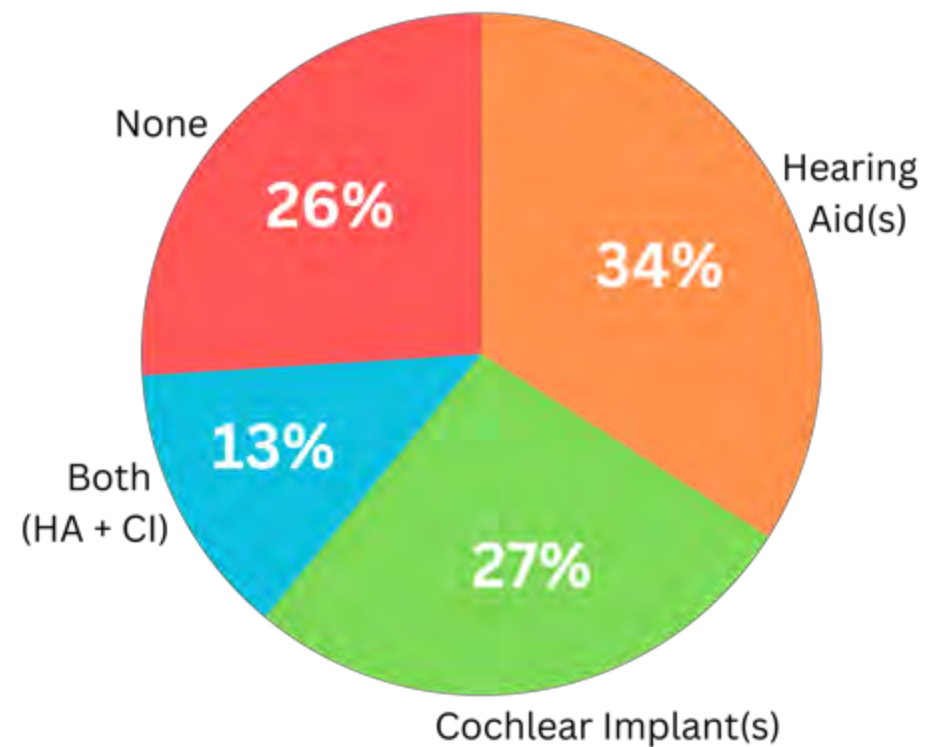
About NTID

The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) is one of the nine colleges of the **Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)** in Rochester, New York.

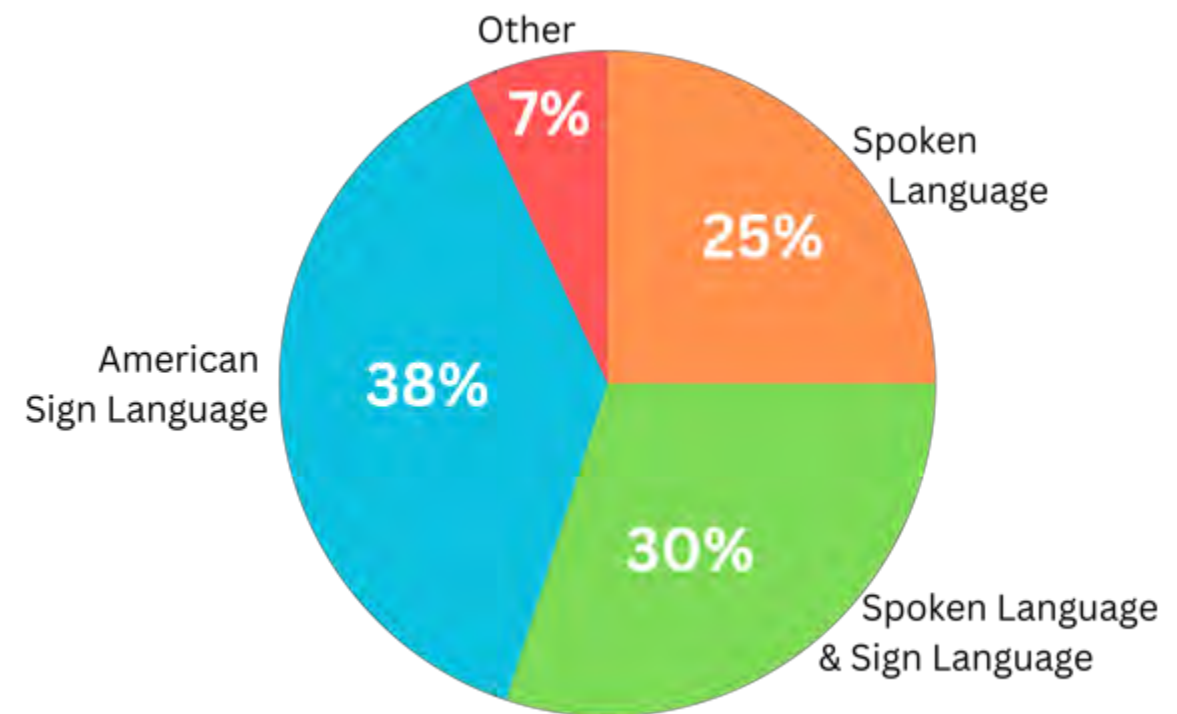
NTID was established by U.S. Congress in 1965 to provide higher education opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

About NTID Students

Listening Technology Use



Communication Modes



About NTID AuDs & SLPs

ASHA-certified Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists at NTID provide on-campus audiological and speech-language services to members of the RIT and NTID Community. Our primary mission to serve and support the diverse communication needs and communication skill development for our deaf and hard of hearing college students.

Our AuDs and SLPs are fluent in American Sign Language and prioritize matching each student and client's language and communication modalities.

<https://www.rit.edu/ntid/css/>

About NTID Services

• **Audiology Center**

- Hearing tests
- Consultations
- FM/Roger loans
- Speechreading and/or listening training
- Cochlear implant mapping
- Hearing aid and cochlear implant adjustments, troubleshooting, repairs, and upgrades

• **Speech & Language Center**

- Speech intelligibility
- Grammar and technical/professional vocabulary and practice
- Communication strategies for work-related interactions/job interviews
- Presentation skill development and practice
- Use of mobile applications as communication tools

What Is Cued Speech?

Cued Speech is a visual communication system that:

- Represents **spoken language at the phonemic level**
- Disambiguates sounds that appear identical on the lips
- Provides complete visual access to spoken languages



Image: Continued with AI assistance

It supports both **language development and literacy acquisition**

Historical Context

Cued Speech was developed in 1966 by Dr. Orin Cornett at Gallaudet University.

Its purpose was to support Deaf children in:

- Accessing spoken language
- Developing phonological awareness
- Learning to read effectively



Image: Presenter Burress

How the System Works

Cued Speech uses:

- **8 handshapes** to represent consonant groups
- **4 placements** near the mouth to represent vowel groups

These cues are produced in synchrony with natural mouth movements, visually representing every phoneme in spoken language.



What Is Cued Speech & How the System Works

Dad's Runaway Butt

by Dawn McMillan

Cued Speech & ASL

Different Approaches that can Coexist

- Cued Speech is a visual system that represents spoken language
- ASL is a complete natural language with its own grammar
- They serve different linguistic goals



Image: Presenter Burress



Complete Phonemic Access

- Every phoneme is visually distinct
- No guessing or filling in missing sounds
- Consistent access across environments

Why it Matters for DHH Children

Cued Speech provides visual clarity, supporting:

- Phonemic awareness
- Speech perception
- Reading development

✓ Cued Speech



Video/Song: Continued with AI assistance

Why It Matters for Speech-Language Pathologists

- Supports phonological awareness and articulation therapy
- Makes speech sound contrasts visually explicit
- Provides a framework for teaching prosody
- Expands tools for visual and multisensory learners



Image: Presenter Burress

Beyond DHH: Broader Clinical Applications

- Childhood Apraxia of Speech
- Dyslexia and phonological-based literacy challenges
- Second language learners
- Visual and multisensory learners

Why It Matters for Audiologists

Cued Speech helps:

- Illustrate limitations of auditory access
- Support counseling conversations with families
- Bridge the gap between amplification and clarity

**Amplification gives access to sound.
Cued Speech gives access to clarity.**



Image: Presenter Burress generated by AI

Educational Counseling Tool

Cued Speech supports family education by:

- Visualizing what speech sounds may be missed
- Clarifying realistic expectations for hearing technology
- Introducing additional options for language access

This promotes informed and collaborative decision-making.

Research & Evidence

Phonological Processing

Alegria & Lechat (2005)

Demonstrated significant improvements in phonological awareness and processing skills among DHH children using Cued Speech

Reading & Decoding

Charlier & Leybaert (2000)

Found enhanced rhyming abilities and decoding skills, showing clear literacy advantages

Reading Acquisition

Reitsma (2009)

Documented substantial support for reading acquisition and literacy development

Comprehensive Review

LaSasso et al. (2010)

Comprehensive review confirming multiple literacy benefits across diverse DHH populations

Where to Learn More

[National Cued Speech Association](#)

Comprehensive trainings, camps, research library, and evidence-based resources for professionals and families

[Cue College](#)

Online courses, Instructor Lead Class, ASHA CEU granting courses for SLPs, and flexible learning paths for busy professionals

YouTube Playlist: [Let's Learn the Cued Speech System](#)

Self Paced Videos created by Cued Speech Transliterator, David Hoppough. Learn the system in less than 5 hours!

Teachers Pay Teachers “[Cued Speech and Cued Language Shop](#)”

Curriculum and Information for Learning and Teaching

Practitioner-Created Tools

- Apple iBooks: Children's Books sponsored by the NCSA
- [YouTube](#): Cued Speech Rochester
- Books and songs transliterated
- [Cue Everything](#)
- Cuebot <https://ejt7508.github.io/cued-speech/>



Little Red
Riding Hood,
Hansel and
Gretel,
Snow White,
Three Little
Pigs,
I have a
Special
Grandma,
My Brother is
Special



Image: Continued with AI assistance

Closing Summary:

- Cued Speech makes spoken language visible
- It supports access, clarity, and literacy
- It can coexist with other language approaches
- It expands clinical tools for professionals

Survey: Please provide feedback

- A secondary mission of RIT/NTID is preparing professionals to work with the deaf/hard of hearing population. Your completion of this 5-question survey will help us monitor our impact and bring you the content you want and need!

Course Title: Cued Speech: What it is and Why it Matters?

Survey Link:

https://rit.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3jSsLz8ViyPZDsqa



Thank you!

Jill Burress, M.S., CCC-SLP





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