



Cueing with Babies

EHDI

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Language is learned
“in order to interact
with someone about
something the two of
you share.” (Bruner,
1978)



Find a cue class and begin cueing!

- Fortunately, Cued Speech is produced with the use of the human face and the hand making this a rich and meaning-laden location for babies to watch.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9hSpfkWBIU>
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Cued American English

CUED SPEECH FOR AMERICAN ENGLISH



Handshape 1
/d, p, zh/
deep treasure



Handshape 2
/TH, k, v, z/
the caves



Handshape 3
/s, h, r/
sea horse



Handshape 4
/wh, b, n/
white bone



Handshape 5
/m, t, f/ & vowel alone
my taffy



Handshape 6
/w, sh, l/
wet shell



Handshape 7
/th, j, g/
thin jogger



Handshape 8
/y, ng, ch/
young child



Mouth
/ee, ur/
leisure



Chin
/aw, ue, e/
tall blue tent



Throat
/oo, i, a/
Look, big crabs!



Side
consonant alone



move 1" forward
Side Forward
/oe, ah/
boat dock



move 1/2" - 3/4" down
Side Down
/uh/
sun



Chin to 5 Throat
/oi, ay/
moist snails



Side to 5 Throat
/ie, ou/
light house

NGSA

National Cued Speech Association
800-459-3529 v/tty • info@cuedspeech.org • www.cuedspeech.org



Hearing – Birth to 3 months

- At 6 months in utero, a baby can hear some vowels, low frequency sounds, environmental sounds and music and will startle to loud sounds
 - Once they are born, they recognize and quiet to their mother's voice
 - At 3 months, they know the difference between a familiar syllable and one that's not in their home language; through hearing, they can detect these differences
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How do they do this so early?

- Babies are born with auditory feature detector systems that help them discriminate sounds in their native language before 12 months (Werker & Tees, 1984).
 - This system needs language input and stimulation from you in order to work!
 - Social interaction, lots of words, and rich language environments together support neuroplasticity and brain growth (Suskind, 2015).
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Vision – at birth

- First thing most newborns see is a human face looking at them.
- Newborns can reportedly see clearly 8-12 inches away



Vision – Birth to 3 months



Fortunately, this is the distance from a mother's face to her child being fed by breast or bottle

Looking behaviors

- Early studies of eye gaze, joint attention, and eye contact in human infants showed that children initiate conversations and select topics non-verbally quite efficiently very soon after birth (de Boysson-Bardies, 1999; Oller, 2000).
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Visual skills - 3-6 months

- By 3-4 months, infants have stereo vision (binocular vision), motion perception, color vision, fine acuity, and well-controlled eye movements
 - At this stage infants can see objects and remember them
 - Babies at this age can actually choose where to look (Eliot, 1999; Pinker, 1997).
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Following eye gaze – 6 to 9 months

- Your face is integral to the social-cognitive development of your baby.
 - Infants learn to follow the direction of adults' gaze beginning around 6-9 months
 - At 12 months they are very tuned in to where adults are looking, their facial expressions, and begin to learn about the intentions of others
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Vision – 5-12 months

- Infants show indications of **speechreading skills by 5-6 months** by noticing the correspondence of words and the movements of the mouth (de Boysson-Bardies, 1999; Golinkoff & Hirsh-Pasek, 1999; Gopnik, Meltzoff, & Kuhl, 1999).
 - By the end of the first year, baby's vision is still being refined but is nearly the same as an adult's vision.
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Relevance to Cued Speech:

- If infants begin speechreading at 5 months, that actually gives new parents time to learn Cued Speech to start slowly cueing with their baby, imitating their vocalizations and expanding on them with words, phrases, and sentences.
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When do you cue?



- In order to make sense of the cues, a baby is processing and applying meaning to them. A child learning her first language must be **within some social context with turn-taking.**
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Diaper time provides nice visual access to your face and cues.



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Think of all the words you can during this time!

Babies between 2-5 months will vocalize more while lying down.

Cue when you feed your baby. Use names of food, how good it tastes, how much they like it, do they want more?



Cue during tub time when hearing technology cannot be used. Talk about: the water, how it feels, the sound of water running, the steps to washing, tub toys, soap, shampoo, all of it!



Cue when you read to your baby. Emphasize vocabulary, relate it to their lives, consider lying down or sitting up and using a big mirror so your baby can see your face and cues.



Cue when you are together with your baby.
Some families speak two languages. Cue your
native language to your baby. They will learn
to code switch and learn each language.



Play games like “peek-a-boo” that are fun and easy to cue



Joint attention and eye gaze during play time allow endless opportunities for teaching and cueing new words together with your child.



Cue the names of things your baby points to or notices. Repeat words they say and expand on their productions using short phrases and sentences.

- Children learn language “in” and “for” conversations, most of which are with mothers who typically use child-directed speech and provide opportunities for imitation and scaffolding.



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www.alamy.com

Cue Babble

- Based on studies and observations from cueing parents, cueing babies can begin to babble and approximate cues at 9-10 months; this is when hearing babies verbally babble
 - First handshapes noted by parents are the open hand (#5), pointer finger (#1), and thumb and index finger extended (#6), motorically easiest?
 - They seem to cue/babble the first sound in their name because they see that used more than other words
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Identifying hearing levels early!

- Historically, babies who were deaf stopped vocalizing at 6 months. Parents noticed this.
 - This fact has changed dramatically due to the establishment of the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening that was begun in 1993
 - Now babies are identified at or soon after birth.
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EHDI 1-3-6 plan:

- **By one month**, your baby's hearing has been screened by an audiologist
 - **By three months**, your baby has been identified as deaf or hard of hearing
 - **By 6 months** you (hopefully!) have been connected with early intervention services.
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Early intervention

- Now 97% of babies in the US are screened at birth.
 - Family support and educational services can begin far sooner than ever before.
 - Families can learn about modalities and communication opportunities and decide what fits their child and family's communication needs.
 - Babies who are deaf can receive hearing aids before 6 months to give them access to some of the sounds of their home language(s) and environment.
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Summary

- Results of research clearly show that regardless of the mode chosen by parents, the sooner you make a decision to try out a system and use it effectively, preferably before 6 months of age, the more success your child will have learning language.
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Cue to your baby...

- Children who grow up with adequate exposure to language via Cued Speech at home develop a mental model of that spoken language and perform comparably to hearing peers on phonemic awareness, internal speech recoding, phonics, rhyming, and spelling (Hage, Alegria, & Perier, 1991; Leybaert & Alegria, 2003).
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Suggestions:

- Take a Cued Speech class from a certified instructor
 - The earlier you start cueing the better.
 - Always cue if your baby is awake and in the room. They can see you peripherally!
 - Surround your baby with good cueing models in language rich, interactive settings.
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Websites to explore:

www.cuedspeech.org

National Cued Speech Association

www.infanthearing.org

National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management

www.handsandvoices.org

Hands and Voices

www.cuecollege.org

Cue classes at various levels
