

## I Was Born Deaf and My Native Language is English: How?

### About Me: The First Year

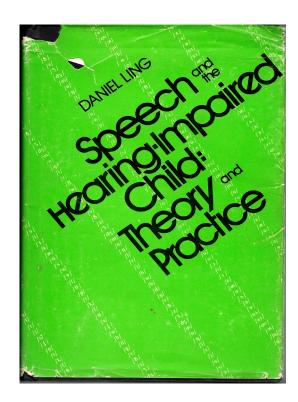
- Born with bilateral sensorineural severe-to-profound deafness to hearing parents with no other deaf or hard-of-hearing family members
- In 1978, newborn hearing screening did not exist ⊗
- 5-month checkup: parents told pediatrician that they thought I had a hearing problem; told to wait until I was 9 months old for testing ⊕
- 6-month checkup with different doctor: told to wait until I was 9 months old 😊
- At 8.5 months old, parents requested hearing testing; first available appointment at 10.5 months
- 10.5 months: Hearing test! Verdict? Likely profoundly deaf. Parents asked about follow-up programs and treatment: "they gave us a blank stare"
- Parents visited parent-infant program; received support from staff
- 11.5-12 months: Follow-on testing indicated no response up to 100dB
- 13 months: Started wearing hearing aids

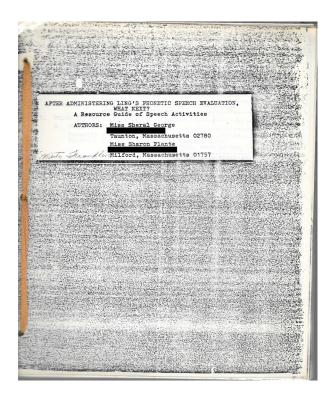




## Years 2-3 (Ages 1-2)

- Parents opted initially for what we now call "listening and spoken language" (LSL)
- They used a variety of speech-language activities derived from Dr. Ling's book, Speech and the Hearing-Impaired Child: Theory and Practice
  - Focused on suprasegmental aspects of speech (pitch, duration, etc.)
- Had equivalent of early intervention services for speech and language (started with 30 minutes 3x/week)
- Had home instruction from a teacher of the deaf for 1 hour/week
- Deafness confirmed as severe-profound





## **Initial Goals**



Increase expressive and receptive language



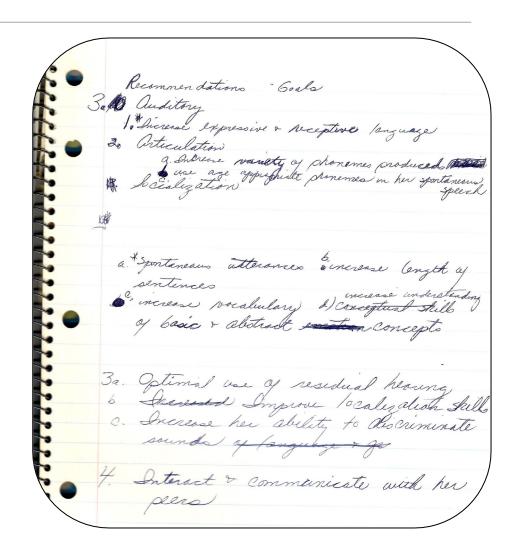
Increase variety of phonemes produced; use ageappropriate phonemes in spontaneous speech



**Increase vocabulary** 



Socialization: interact and communicate with peers



## By Age 3.5-4

- Receptive and expressive language lagging
- Parents opted to start cueing
  - Teacher of the Deaf already knew how to cue
    - Taught my parents to cue during 3 long sessions over 3 noncontinuous days
    - Started cueing informally with me; no direct instruction
- Language caught up quickly; age appropriate by 4

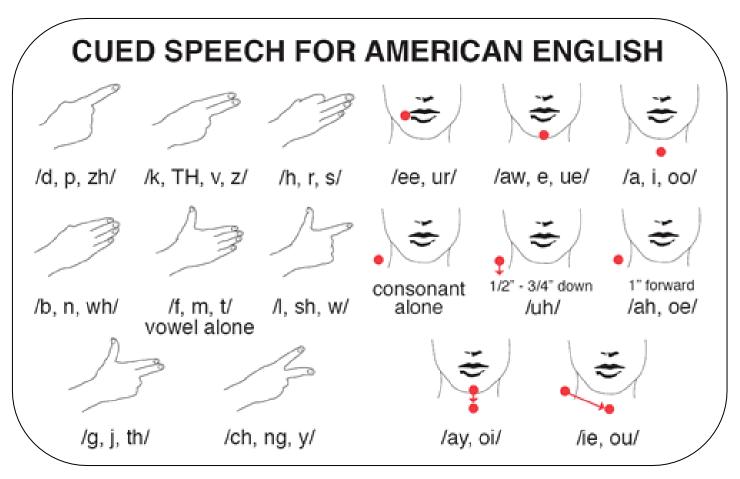


Me with Pam Beck, my TOD at age 3-4

#### Cued Speech for American English

Cued Speech is a visual communication mode that uses 8 handshapes in 4 different placements near the face in combination with the mouth movements of *speech* to make the phonemes of spoken language look different from each other.

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### What Is a Cue?

• A *cue* is a handshape or hand placement in combination with the corresponding mouth shape that visually represents a consonant or vowel.



### Pre-Kindergarten

- Deaf/Hard of Hearing Pre-K/Kindergarten class in public school (Montgomery County, MD)
  - Half-day class; attended the morning
  - Daily journal between TOD and parents
- National Child Research Center (NCRC) (Washington, DC)
  - Half-day; attended in afternoon
- Instruction via Cued American English
- Lots of language-building activities!
- Fond memory of playing "Memory" at NCRC!
- Summer: 1:1 support via school district; attended county summer camp with hearing peers (no CLT)

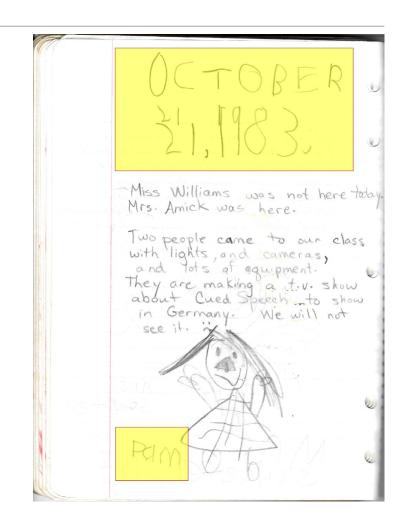


Class photo from 1982-1983



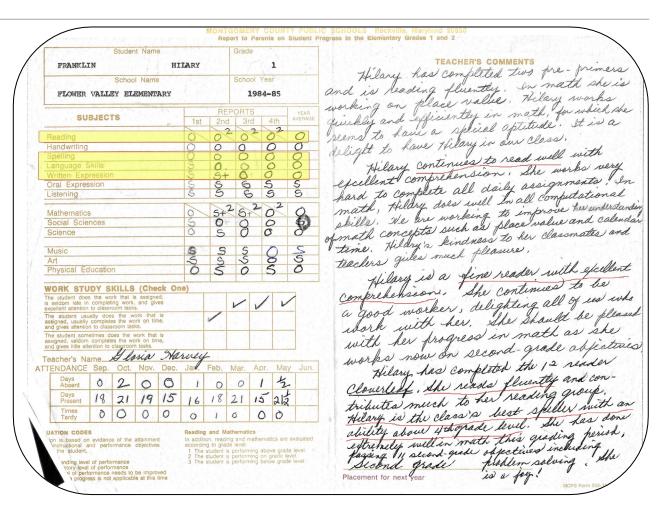
## Kindergarten

- Half-day mainstream kindergarten with cued language transliterator; half-day in DHH class
- Got first public library card; checked out FOUR books! (And never stopped...)
- Lots of reading!
- Started writing in daily notebooks between TOD and parents!



## By the End of First Grade...

- Reading, Spelling, Language Skills, and Written Expression all "Outstanding"
- Oral Expression: "Satisfactory"
- Listening: "Satisfactory" (hasn't changed...I still tend to interrupt ©)
- "...fine reader with excellent comprehension."
- "...class's best speller with an ability above 4<sup>th</sup> grade level."



## Why Cueing Works: Key Factors for Language Development

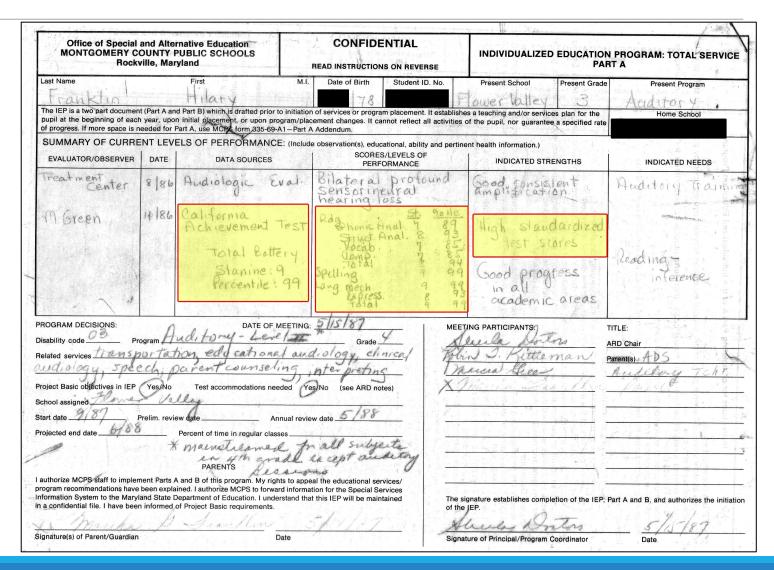
- Makes phonemes clearly visible to all regardless of level of hearing and/or auditory processing
- Supports phonics-based instruction: Research shows that phonics works!
  - Phonemes in isolation
  - Phonemes in combination with other phonemes (build from utterances to single words to two-word sentences, three-word sentences, etc.)
  - Use of prosody to demonstrate stress, rhythm, etc.
- Decoding process works the same as for hearing peers
- When learning to write, DHH cuers make the same mistakes as hearing kids
  - E.g., "bloo" or "blu" for blue; "dout" or "dowt" for doubt; "peech" for peach
- Consistent cueing enables children to develop language on par with their hearing peers
- Cueing conversationally enables children to develop appropriate interpersonal communication skills

## Research: Jean Wandel, 1989

- 120 children (ages 7-16) across 4 categories:
  - 30 LSL | 30 Total Communication (TC) | 30 Cueing | 30 Hearing (control)
  - Each group of deaf children had 15 with severe deafness, 15 profound
- Method: administered internal speech ratio, Ravens, SAT, reading comprehension tests
- Results:
- **No difference in reading ability between deaf cuers and hearing children**; slight advantage for those with profound deafness than severe deafness due to more consistency cueing (at home and school)
- LSL group performed lower than cueing group on all measures
- TC group performed lower than Hearing, LSL, and cueing groups on all tests

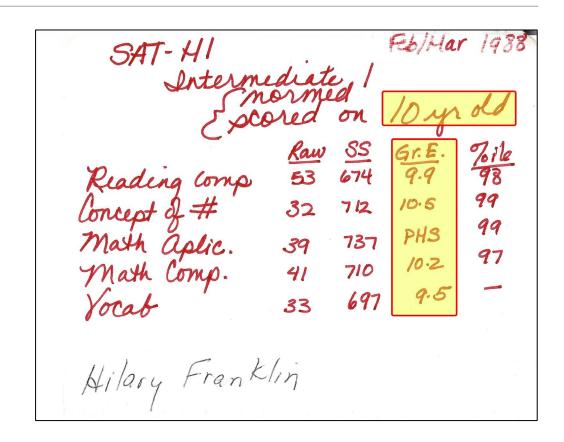
## By the End of Third Grade...

- Took California Achievement Test (CAT)
  - Overall percentile: 99th
    - **Reading:** 94<sup>th</sup> percentile
    - Spelling: 99<sup>th</sup>
    - Language Mechanics: 99<sup>th</sup>



# By the End of Fourth Grade...

- Took Stanford Achievement Test for Hearing Impaired students (normed against 10-yo hearing peers)
  - Grade Equivalent Scores:
    - Reading Comprehension: 9.9
    - Concept of Numbers: 10.5
    - Math Applications: PHS (past high school?)
    - Math Comprehension: 10.2
    - Vocabulary: 9.5



#### Since then...

- Mainstreamed in Montgomery County Public Schools, MD, with cued language transliterators (CLTs)
  - Started learning ASL in middle school/high school
- B.A. (2003), Public Policy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Go Tar Heels!)
- M.A. (2006), Teaching American Sign Language as a Foreign Language,
   Teachers College, Columbia University
- Works for the Department of Defense
- Certified instructor of Cued American English since 2005
- On the board of the National Cued Speech Association

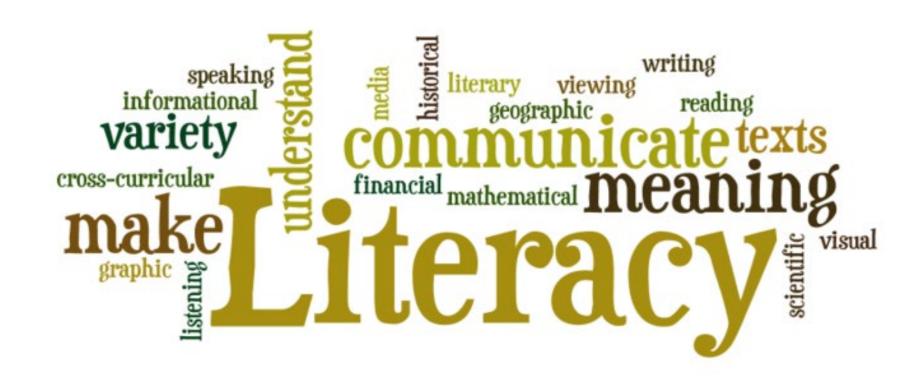


## Can We Use CAE, ASL, and LSL?

#### Yes!

- Using cueing for English and signing for ASL preserves the integrity of both languages.
  - No need to "adapt" ASL signs to convey specific English words.
- DHH cuers are able to decode written English via phonics, even if they have no usable hearing.
- If the family is Deaf and the first language is ASL, then Deaf children can learn English via cueing (does require having someone cue consistently).
- Illinois School for the Deaf has a bilingual program; academic instruction is provided in ASL and/or CAE, based on IEPs.

## In Short...Cueing Enables Literacy



#### Resources

For more information, check out https://cuedspeech.org or visit the **National Cued Speech Association booth!** 

#### **Support System Network**

- Other parents
- Adult Deaf cuers
- **Professionals**
- Facebook Group: Cued Speech

#### **Learning to Cue**

- Self-paced: CueCollege
- Virtual classes: Generally advertised via NCSA/Facebook
- In-person classes: Cue Camps; local classes depends on instructor availability
- Transliterator training: Language Matters, Inc.

#### Early Intervention/IFSP, IEP Support

- Professionals/Educators
- Legal understanding; possibly legal support

#### Resources

- NCSA membership (free for first-year families!)
- DCLP family boxes (free for first-year families!)
- "Cue with Me!" boxes (www.cuecollege.org)







**CUECOLLEGE**<sup>™</sup>

**Cue Store** 



#### Websites and Videos

- The National Cued Speech Association: <a href="https://cuedspeech.org/">https://cuedspeech.org/</a>
- Cue College: <a href="https://cuecollege.org">https://cuecollege.org</a>
- Cued Speech (a mini-documentary)
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIPw4H-ZsMg&t=6s
- Giving language a helping hand, Cathy Rasmussen, TEDxFlourCity
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4KQfepEqWQ
- ASL, PSE, and CAE: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxEu1IIBVyA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxEu1IIBVyA</a>
- Heteronyms, <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=085H1TdxuBU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=085H1TdxuBU</a>
- Go by Twista: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FMsISKJNMI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FMsISKJNMI</a>
- Codeswitching Between CAE and ASL: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pg9ZCDo3dzA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pg9ZCDo3dzA</a>

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