

Kids, Cueing, and Summer Fun

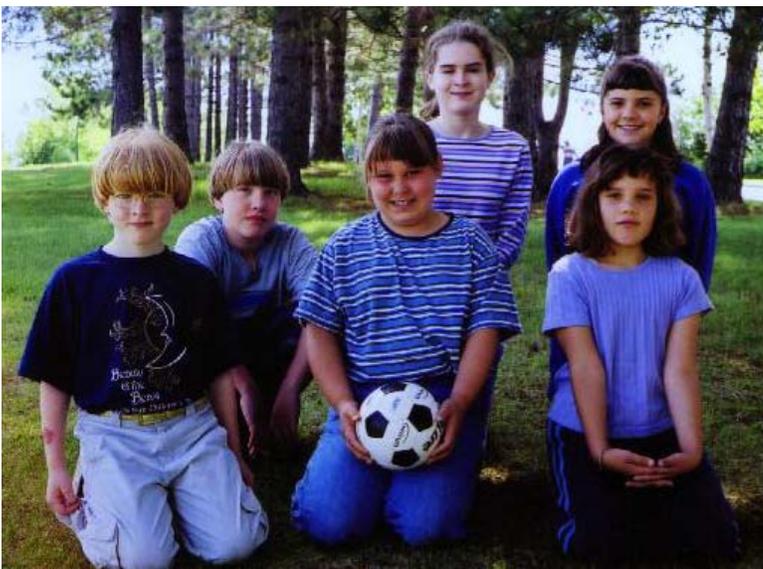
By Theresa Koenig

Duluth, MN

What makes teaching a kids' cue class so seriously rewarding? For me, it's the steady stream of questions and those wonderful break through moments when you can see and hear a student making sense of 'this cueing stuff'. "Why do people cue?"; "Oh!, so we say *T* different ways sometimes, but we cue 'em all the same." ; "How could someone think of cueing?"; "Can I have another cookie?"; "How do deaf people know what it means?"; "Yeah! Cue kick ball, cue kick ball!". These are just a sampling of the many rewards I received from instructing this summer's "*Kids Can Cue Too*" class in Duluth, Minnesota. Yes, it *was* rewarding folks, and it was a lot of fun!

Seven kids from the Duluth area, ages 7 to 12, attended class this summer. These children, whose family, friends or classmates use cued English, spent their mornings, once a week for five weeks, learning and practicing how to cue. Having a small group of kids with mixed cueing skills was a wonderful experience for everyone. A few kids already knew how to cue quite well. They served as excellent mentors for the other children, and their own skills improved in the process. Some kids were completely new to cueing, and they learned basic cueing skills. All the children enjoyed the daily work, the daily prizes, the cue games, and the art projects related to cueing. One student whose mother uses cued English for communication said, "Cueing is going great, I am using it more and more with my Mom."

Parent initiative helped get this class off the ground. This past Spring, I taught a beginning class, and a few parents from that class wanted their kids to learn to cue. With parent support, a generous grant from the Duluth Area Lions Club, and a space donated by a local church, we were successful in providing Cued Speech instruction to Duluth area children this summer. In addition to the class, some families incorporated a "family cue night" into their routine to reinforce and improve their new cueing skills. Leadership and support from parents goes a long way in teaching their children, not only how to cue, but how to work it into their daily lives.



Part of our class. First row: Kjell and Leif Hinkel, Ashlie DeYoung, Kimberly Young. Back Row: Alicia Liebrand, Kristin Young.





**A classic summer pastime with a cueing twist!
The kids made their own cue T-shirts for fun.**