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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Free Booklet for Parents: Open Doors

June, 1999 – Cleveland, OH — A new free publication, *Open Doors: Options in Communication and Education for Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing*, is available to help parents become knowledgeable about audiograms, communication systems, and educational rights and choices.

The 32-page booklet was written by parents, professionals, and deaf adults who use more than one communication system. Thus, families are provided with unbiased information about the continuum of school settings and the most widely used communication modes, including: American Sign Language, Auditory-Verbal, Cued-Speech, Manually Coded English and Oral.

A section on the decision-making process highlights factors that might affect parents' choice of communication mode(s). The final section lists resources in terms of materials and organizations.

Audiologists, educators and other professionals can help prepare parents to make these important decisions by providing parents with the *Open Doors* booklet.

This booklet was a joint project of Oticon, Inc., the Academy of Dispensing Audiologists, and the National Cued Speech Association. *Open Doors* can be obtained by contacting any of the following three organizations: Oticon Customer Service, 732-560-1220 / 1-800-526-3921(V/TTY) / 732-560-0029(F); NCSA, 1-800-459-3529 (V/TTY) / 216-292-6213 (V/TTY); or ADA, 803-252-5646 / 1-800-445-8629 (V) / 803-765-0860 (F).

Professionals and organizations that serve children with hearing loss and/or their families are encouraged to obtain copies of the OPEN DOORS booklet for distribution to these families. Please join Oticon, the ADA and the NCSA in our mission to *open doors* to communication, education, literacy and community for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

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The National Cued Speech Association champions effective communication, language development and literacy through the use of Cued Speech. For more information, visit www.cuedspeech.org or call 800.459.3529.

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