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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***NCSA Board Adopts Position on Cued Speech and Cochlear Implant***

**August 5, 2003 – Cleveland, OH** — In recognition of the rising number of deaf children who receive cochlear implants, the board of the National Cued Speech Association adopted a position statement - “Cued Speech and Cochlear Implants” (see attached) on July 31, 2003, to address the need for ongoing and continued use of Cued Speech after implantation to facilitate auditory processing and communication.

The rapidly advancing technology of the cochlear implant brings significantly increased hearing necessary to auditorily process oral speech and language to many children. The position statement delineates five advantages of pairing Cued Speech with cochlear implants to facilitate auditory processing. Cued Speech serves as a communication tool to be used with the cochlear implant to:

1. Visually clarify and confirm what is being processed auditorily through the cochlear implant
2. Attach meaning to new auditory information and to the speech sound system of spoken language (phonology).
3. Facilitate and accelerate new language development including vocabulary, grammatical structures, and idiomatic expressions.
4. Provide an unambiguous message when there is competing or background noise, when the implant is not in use, or when the implant user is at a distance from the speaker.
5. Provide continuity among professionals when teaching articulation skills.

The NCSA statement also recognizes the need for daily unisensory auditory experiences and full information and choice for parents as they make decisions regarding implantation. The NCSA believes in the need for parent and school district commitment to sufficient habilitation and education, accurate and fluent use of Cued Speech, and the rights of children and parents to continue using their preferred mode of communication after implantation.

For research results and more information, please contact the National Cued Speech Association at 1-800-459-3529 v/tty or visit [www.cuedspeech.org](http://www.cuedspeech.org). The text of all NCSA position statements can be found at the Association’s web site: [www.cuedspeech.org](http://www.cuedspeech.org).

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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](http://www.cuedspeech.org) or call 800. 459.3529.*

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