

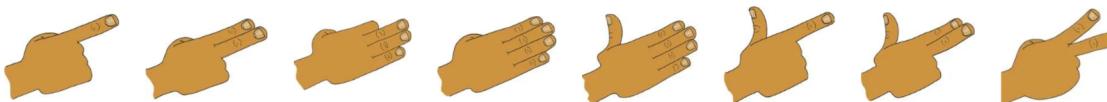


Primary age Literacy – a whole new experience!

We are lucky enough to have Deaf Choices UK located in Totnes, providing support to children, families, schools and other professionals in the use of Cued Speech.

What is Cued Speech?

Cued Speech is a manual system that is used all over the world to enable deaf children to accurately lipread and learn spoken languages.



Why use Cued Speech?

Cued Speech is one option in a great tool kit to support children access the spoken language - it makes spoken language visible!



Scan the QR code to find out what parents have to say about Cued Speech:



What's new...Nan In a Van (NIAV)

Nan in a Van (NIAV), is a series of e-books which use digital avatars to present the story in both Cued English and British Sign Language. Designed entirely for Special Educational Needs (SEN) including deaf children, this is a first in deaf education and gives SEN children equality of access to a literacy resource.

We know that deaf children and those with SEND may struggle with literacy at Key stage 1 and we also know that many literacy programmes may not meet the unique needs of these children and that the belief that; 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!' will often leave children and staff feeling demoralised.

Personal experience

As a SENDCo in Primary Schools I was always looking for new ways to support those that were struggling to learn their phonics sounds, sometimes finding some children still working on their first set of sounds well into their primary school journey. I tried various strategies from whole word approaches, building in extra 1:1 phonics sessions and using lots of repetition to help them on this journey with



Cat Rusbridge

little success resulting in frustrations for the child and team, always wanting the best for them! I wish I had known about NIAV then, this programme installs all the right aspects of learning to aid a child with their reading progress. Speaking from personal experience as a Mum, my 5 year old daughter displayed great difficulty in her articulation of sounds due to a blocked ear canal and this impacted her reading skills, she simply wasn't hearing some sounds and wasn't able to differentiate between others.



Whilst training for my new role at Deaf Choices UK, she showed an interest straight away in the hand shapes and movements attached to the sounds. Realising she could benefit from learning this new skill alongside me, we learnt some of the sounds together!

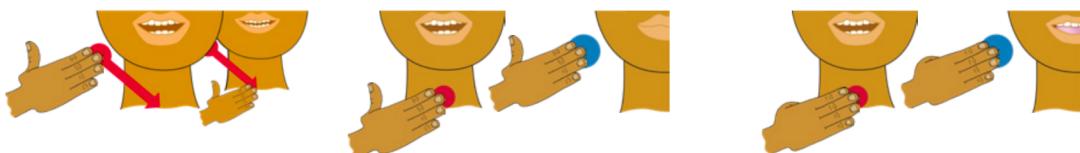
She went from strength to strength in her phonics knowledge, displaying great confidence in her new found ability. She enjoyed seeing the sound and copying the action. Her articulation became clearer based on the placement of my hand to mouth or throat to help her understand where the sound comes from in its



formulation. I also found that we could read together for longer periods of time because she was moving her body, looking at me and not just having to concentrate on the page.

I feel very grateful to have found this resource as a parent and am so excited to be part of this team in helping other children access this type of Literacy learning. I believe this could redefine other children's journeys – not just those who are deaf or have a hearing impairment but those who struggle to sit for long periods of time, those who can't look at a written letter and attach a random sound to it, those that need access to something new – not just to spend hours on end repeating the same learning process. We know we all have different learning styles – so let's try something new!

I am Nan.



To find out more: www.deafchoicesuk.com/nan-in-a-van