

## **Memories and Insights: Deaf Cued Perspectives**

**Andy Payonk from North Carolina and Christine Hartman from Ohio**

*Facilitator: Tell us how old you are and where you are in school. What are some things you are interested in, both in and out of school?*

**Andy Payonk:** I am twenty-one years old. I am going to college for construction management. I love to be outside and hang out with friends.

**Christine Hartman:** I am thirteen and in the eighth grade.. I like to read, dance, and watch TV. My favorite subject in school is language arts.

*Facilitator: What are your earliest memories of seeing Cued Speech?*

**Andy:** One day we were going to the beach and my mom said that I needed to get my bathing suit and put it in the car.

**Christine:** My earliest memory is Cued Speech camp in Maryland.

*Facilitator: What are your earliest memories of using cues yourself?*

**Andy:** When I was in preschool I cued to my friend who was deaf.

**Christine:** At home with my mom and dad.

*Facilitator: What helped you learn to cue?*

**Andy:** Cueing with a group of people or at home with my parents.

*Facilitator: When people cue to you what can they do to make it easier for you to understand?*

**Andy:** I can understand anybody who cues, no matter how fast or slow.

**Christine:** Go slow and relax.

*Facilitator: Have you tried teaching your friends to cue?*

**Andy:** No. It is too hard for me to. Some people have asked, but they end up talking and not cueing.

**Christine:** In elementary school, we had Cued Speech classes during recess. My transliterator and my mom were the teachers. Seven people from my grade would come and play games. They sometimes cued to me.

*Facilitator: Do you use Cued Speech to help you listen and distinguish sounds better?*

**Andy:** I do not think so.

**Christine:** In speech, if I am having trouble pronouncing a word, my transliterator cues the word and it is easier for me to pronounce it.

*Q: When was the first time you remember meeting other kids that cued? What was it like?*

**Andy:** At preschool we hung out together. I had one friend from South Carolina and one friend from the same town as me. I go to college with one of them.

**Christine:** It was at Cued Speech camp for me. It was cool because I could understand them better.

*Q: People are nervous if they do not think that they cue very well and they are trying to be accurate. Do you say anything like, "Slow down, it is okay," or do you just let them struggle?*

**Andy:** I tell them to slow down and relax.

*Q: That would help sometimes for you to say that, because I try to cue fast so you will not be bored. Lots of parents say that. I did not want my child to look away bored.*

**Gail Hartman:** Christine appreciates it when someone tries, even if they make a lot of mistakes.

*Q: When you were in school, did your transliterators go with you to recess and lunch? If not, how was the communication with peers when they were not there?*

**Andy:** No. That would embarrass me if my transliterator was with me. When we were in class, I would pass around notes with friends and when we were outside we would just talk.

**Christine:** We would just talk.