

See the Sound: Visual Phonics

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What is See the Sound: Visual Phonics?

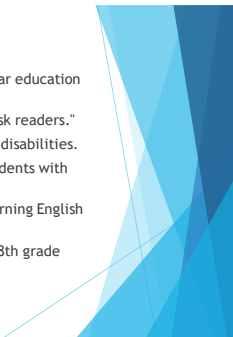
- ▶ Multisensory technique for teaching phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, and phonics
- ▶ Consists of a handshape and a written symbol that depicts each of the 45 speech sounds of English
- ▶ Mimics what the mouth, teeth, and tongue are doing when sound is produced
- ▶ The sound, handshape, and written symbol facilitate a multisensory connection between alphabet letters and their corresponding sounds

What is See the Sound: Visual Phonics?

- ▶ It is a **tool**.
- ▶ It might facilitate:
 - ▶ English literacy
 - ▶ Writing skills
 - ▶ Spoken language
- ▶ It might help students sound out words visually and orally
- ▶ Invented by mother of deaf child
- ▶ Visual Phonics is copyrighted by ICLI (International Communication Learning Institute), a non-profit volunteer organization formed in 1982

Who can benefit?

- ▶ Students that read below grade level in regular education settings or in special service programs.
- ▶ Children in early education programs or "at risk readers."
- ▶ Special education students and students with disabilities.
- ▶ Deaf and Hard of Hearing students (DHH), students with hearing loss at all levels.
- ▶ English Language Learners (ELL), students learning English as a second language.
- ▶ Adults who are not literate or read below an 8th grade level.
- ▶ Typically developing students



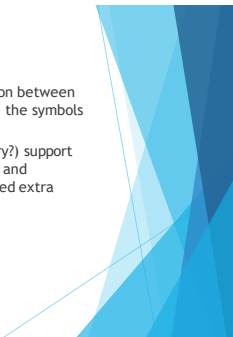
Visual Phonics is NOT

- ▶ A curriculum
 - ▶ ...or to be used with any one curriculum
- ▶ A communication system
 - ▶ Unlike cued speech
- ▶ An articulation program
- ▶ Only for DHH students



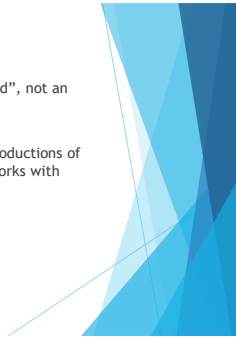
Why does SSVP work?

- ▶ VP breaks the "code" - it makes the connection between sounds and letters clear and understandable - the symbols are meaningful and natural
- ▶ VP integrates visual, kinesthetic, (and auditory?) support for the decoding process - it provides a visual and kinesthetic "bridge" to sound for kids who need extra help
- ▶ VP bombards all learning modes
- ▶ VP involves muscle memory



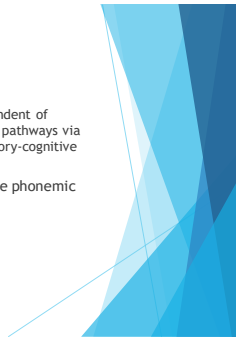
Why it works...

- ▶ The Visual Phonics program starts with “sound”, not an arbitrary alphabet letter
- ▶ With VP, hand shapes represent the actual productions of the sound by the articulators-this is why it works with DHH kids



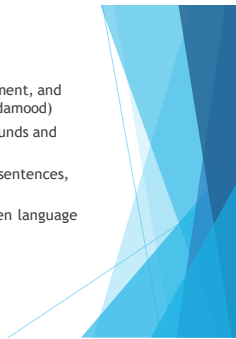
How VP (probably) works

- ▶ Linda Jones-Oleson (2006)
 - ▶ “Viewing and doing the act of speech, independent of auditory input, activates critical phonological pathways via phonetic gestures and contributes to the sensory-cognitive process of phonemic awareness.”
- ▶ Therefore, VP can give DHH kids access to the phonemic information of written English!



Phonemic Awareness:

- ▶ “the **sensory-cognitive** ability to blend, segment, and manipulate phonemes in spoken words” (Lindamood)
- ▶ The awareness that words are made up of sounds and which sounds are in words
- ▶ Patterns of language-rhymes, songs, poems, sentences, words, and syllables
- ▶ The ability to manipulate the sounds of spoken language
- ▶ Oral skill without a print component



Phonemic Awareness

- ▶ Phonemic awareness is absolutely essential in learning to read and spell
- ▶ The lack of phonemic awareness is the most powerful determinant of the likelihood of the failure to learn to read
- ▶ Children with underdeveloped phonemic awareness skills in preschool and kindergarten are among the poorest readers in later years

Phonics

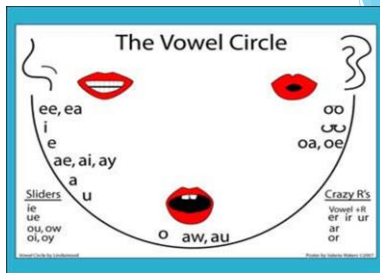
- ▶ “instruction about how letters represent sounds in our language” (Lindamood)
- ▶ Instruction in the alphabetic code
- ▶ Patterns of print
- ▶ A system of rules that we teach and model
- ▶ Not necessary to memorize the rules, but to recognize the patterns and apply them
- ▶ Phonics rules do not work universally - sight words!

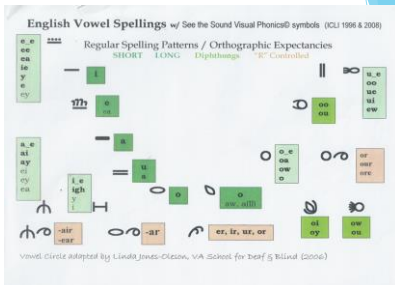
Why is this so hard for DHH students?

- ▶ There are 26 letters in the English language
- ▶ There are 45 sounds in the English language
- ▶ Many kids with normal hearing can easily decode words because the words they are learning are already part of their vocabulary.
- ▶ Most reading programs for DHH don't include, don't focus on, or skip the phonemic awareness!
- ▶ Written English is a code for spoken English—not ASL

Reading for Comprehension

- ▶ The goal!
- ▶ 85% of English is rule-bound
- ▶ Instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics is the basis of reading
- ▶ The average deaf adult reads on a 4th-6th grade level
- ▶ Research suggests that reading activates the same parts of the brain as spoken language





Consonants

- ▶ LJO set them up according to Ling's Steps (1978)
 - ▶ Step I—Easy to see and do (YELLOW)
 - ▶ Step II—Challenging to see and do (ORANGE)
 - ▶ Step III—Hard to see and very difficult to do (PINK)

Visual Phonics (ECL1 '96) for English Consonants in Steps I, II, III (Ling 78)

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