



Alexander Graham Bell

Work with Deaf People

Alexander Graham Bell's mother was deaf.

Bell's father worked with deaf people, and developed a system known as 'Visible Speech' to show how different speech sounds are made. At that time, Visible Speech was thought of as an excellent way to help deaf people learn and develop their speech, although its use gradually stopped after about twelve years.

Bell helped demonstrate how Visible Speech could be used, and helped his father teach it to deaf people.

In 1872, he opened his own School for the Deaf. His first class had around thirty pupils, including Helen Keller, who became the first deaf and blind person to earn a university degree.

In 1871, Bell travelled to Boston in America to train teachers at the School for the Deaf.

