

Makaton Signing and Symbols

Information for
parents
and carers

Online Makaton Resources

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a language system that uses signing and symbols to support people to communicate.

Makaton supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language & expression.

You may have seen Makaton being used on Cbeebies – Something Special or Bedtime stories.



Can Makaton Help my child?

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Makaton builds on early communication skills such as pointing and gesture and can help children with communication difficulties to express themselves more easily.

symbol	sign
eat	

Will Makaton delay my child's speech?

No! There is robust research evidence that Makaton supports communication and can often act as a 'stepping stone' or 'bridge' to developing speech and language skills

How do I start to use Makaton with my child?

A small range of everyday vocabulary is usually a good place to start. Your Speech Therapist can help you to choose some words to get started and share the signs with you. Use the signs alongside speech in your daily routines with your child. Teach the signs to other family members so that they can use them too. It may take a while for your child to make the connection between the sign and meaning of the word. Try not to be disheartened if your child does not sign right away, even your average baby will listen to language around them for 12-18 months before they start to speak

If you would like to attend Makaton training to learn more about Makaton, to learn signs and symbols either speak to your child's Speech and Language Therapist or email the team.

Please don't hesitate to contact school on 01344 483872, if you would like further information on how to support your young person.

There are many resources that can help you to use Makaton.

The Makaton Charity Website.

The Makaton Charity Website: - <https://www.makaton.org/>

On the Makaton website, you will find; sign of the week, blogs from Makaton users and their families, lots of resources to purchase or download (including many free resources)

The Makaton Charity Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ThemakatonCharity/>

Here you will find sign of the week videos, information about offers and new resources.

CBeebies Resources

What is Makaton? A helpful introduction to Makaton on the CBeebies website

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/something.special-getting-started-with-makaton>

Getting started with Makaton. Helpful video tips on the CBeebies Website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/something.special-getting-started-with-makaton>

Really useful signs: again from CBeebies website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/something>.

Something Special on CBeebies: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/something>

Other useful Makaton resources

Signing Hands Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/signinghands/> and website <https://signinghands.co.uk> Signing have worked collaboratively with The Makaton Charity to produce lots of songs stories. Resources and activities that are all supported with Makaton singing.