

Makaton is a language programme that uses signs and symbols with spoken language to encourage communication skills and develop speech.

Experience has shown that using signs and symbols can help to develop early communication skills including eye contact, turn taking, attention and use of gestures such as pointing. Signs also help children and young people to understand what we are saying. When a person is provided with a means of communication through signing, it can help their self-confidence and self-esteem and encourage communication. Even when their motor skills are not fully developed, their signs and gestures may still be clear enough to convey meaning.

Makaton was originally designed for children and adults with a variety of communication and learning difficulties. It has now become a popular way to encourage and develop a range of skills including social interaction, language, speech and literacy across all ages and abilities both in the UK and abroad.

Using Makaton can give the person a way to communicate with you and it can help to prevent frustrations. Using Makaton regularly will help the child or young person to pick up the signs.

This document provides Makaton signs to help you to use Makaton with the Promise.

Top tips for using Makaton

- Use the signs and symbols whenever you can. It will help to reinforce the message in your child's mind.
- Always say the word while making the sign.
- Try to make eye contact and be clear with your signing.
- You may like to guide the person's hands to help them sign.
- If the person tries to sign, encourage their attempts. Use the sign for 'Good' and say 'Well done'.
- Use the symbols to help memory, understanding about what is happening now or next, labelling and making choices.
- Encourage friends, relatives and anyone who cares for your child to use Makaton as well.

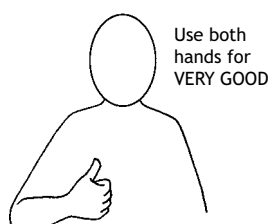
If you would like to learn more about The Makaton Charity, find out about Makaton training and resources or get advice on how Makaton can help, please visit www.makaton.org or telephone **01276 606760**.

Today, over 100,000 children and adults use Makaton symbols and signs as either their main method of communication or as a way to support speech. The Makaton Charity delivers training to 30,000 people each year, produces sign and symbol resources, supports families and professionals, and works in partnership to influence society.

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Good



Good

Makaton symbols

You can cut these out and use them to help girls in your unit understand what's coming next. The symbols can help them remember and reinforce their learning.



Promise

Signs and symbols to help you

