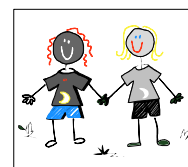


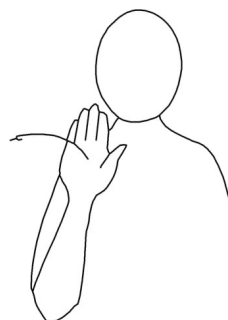
Information and advice from:



Early Development and

Early Years Foundation Stage

Using Makaton



Hello

To support communication and language development

What is Makaton?

- Makaton is a language programme using signs, symbols and speech to help people communicate.
- Speech is always used with signs, in spoken word order.
- Signs and symbols can help people who have no speech or whose speech is unclear.
- Makaton is also shown to support early communication skills such as attention, listening, taking turns and understanding.

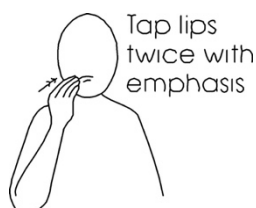
Getting started

- The first aim is for your child to make a connection between the sign and what it represents.
- Introduce 3-4 signs to start with. These seem to be the most useful:

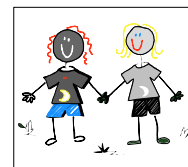
Drink



Eat



Information and advice from:



Early Development and

Early Years Foundation Stage

More



Flat hand, palm down. Covers top of other fist



Wash hands



Some things to remember

- Your child will understand signs fairly quickly, but it will normally take much longer before they perform them.
- Be patient and don't get frustrated. This should be fun!
- Repetition is important. Use every opportunity to sign.
- Your child's first signs may differ from yours. Don't worry; the signs will develop over time, just like speech. So keep modelling the signs correctly.
- There may be some signs that your child will never make but will understand perfectly. This is quite normal.
- Try to extend signing to the whole family and carers. Show them the signs you are using.
- But most of all have fun 😊

Further information

- Check out the Makaton website www.makaton.org
- Have you seen Mr Tumble? www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/something-special
- Learn to sign along to some favourite songs and rhymes with Singing Hands www.singinghands.co.uk (They're signing biscuit by the way 😊)

