

# What is...

# Makaton Sign



## What is Makaton Sign?

A language that uses a combination of speech, symbols and signs to communicate.

Signs are simple actions and handshapes that are used alongside spoken words to convey a meaning.

## How does Makaton help?

- Increases understanding - Allows key information to be given in a visual way.
- Provides a means of expression and aids individuals whose talking is still developing or unclear.

## Top Tips:

- Say and sign words at the same time.
- Sign the key words only.
- Use the sign every time you say the word.
- Repeat the word and sign lots and lots, e.g. “here’s your drink. Here’s mummy’s drink. Mmm, nice drink.”
- Use the word and sign in lots of different situations, e.g. Use “more” at meal-times, playing with different toys, at bath-time, etc.
- Respond to any attempt a child makes at signing.
- Don’t correct signs, respond, and repeat the sign for them, e.g. “yes, a drink”.
- Teach a new sign per week.
- Be motivating - you want to be attention grabbing as signs are visual expressions of language.
- Use alongside spoken words- by doing this it can be beneficial for spoken word development.