

Key facts

- Makaton is a sign-based system designed to support understanding and expression in young children and those with speech, language and communication needs. It is not a formal or recognised language in its own right.
- Consistency is key! Ensure everyone in contact with the child uses the same sign to avoid confusion.
- Makaton is always used alongside the spoken word.
- Makaton signs are only used for the key words in a sentence.
- Makaton provides a visual representation of the speaker's meaning giving children more chance of understanding the word.
- Signs are fun and straightforward to do, giving even young children and babies a method of expression before they are ready to use the word. This reduces frustration for both the child and the parent!
- Makaton will not stop your child from using the word when they are ready. Once your child can say the word, they will naturally stop using the sign.

Concerned about your child's talking?

Contact Sam (Specialist Speech and Language Therapist at Chatty Chipmunks) to arrange a FREE no obligation 15 minute wellbeing chat to discuss your concerns and how we can help.

Phone: 07425 914487

Email: sam@chattychipmunks.co.uk

Web: www.chattychipmunks.co.uk



Makaton:

A guide for parents of young children



“To sign”

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a sign-based system used alongside the spoken word. It is designed to support understanding and expression in young children and those with speech, language and communication needs.

Makaton is not a formal or recognised language in its own right, unlike British Sign Language (BSL) for example. The speaker says and signs only the key words in the sentence.

How can Makaton help my child?

- Signing the key words as you say them helps focus the child's attention on those words and gives another clue as to what the word might mean.
- Signing helps slow down your rate of speech naturally, thereby making what you say easier for the child to follow.
- The signs are usually very obvious, helping your child understand the meaning of the word.
- Before a child knows how to say a word, Makaton gives them another mode of expression that is easier and more achievable for them.
- Most signs are straightforward to do, even babies can do them!
- Makaton helps reduce frustration in young children as it gives them another way of expressing themselves and makes it easier for you to understand your child's wants and needs.
- The signs are fun and engaging – catching your child's attention, while also raising their enjoyment and confidence in communicating!

Note: Makaton signs will not stop your child from using the word when they are ready. Once your child can say the word independently, they will naturally drop the sign!

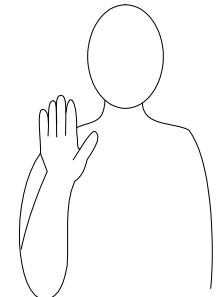
Some Key Makaton Signs



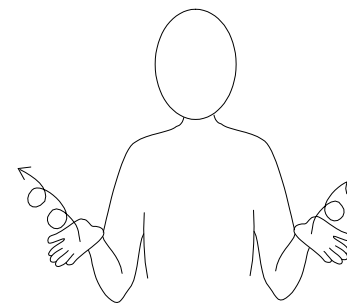
More



Finished



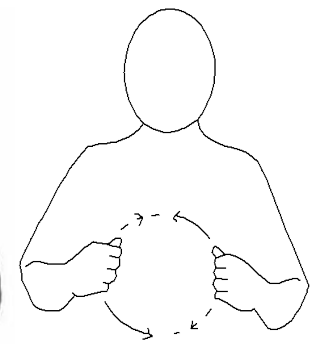
Stop



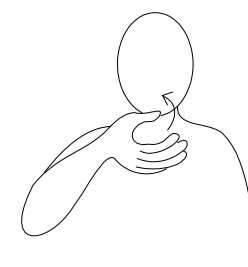
Play



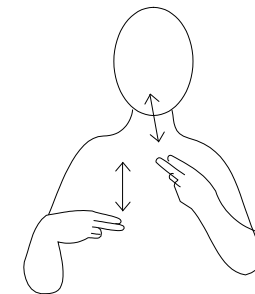
Baby/doll



Car



Drink



Dinner/lunch