

# Makaton at Curnow



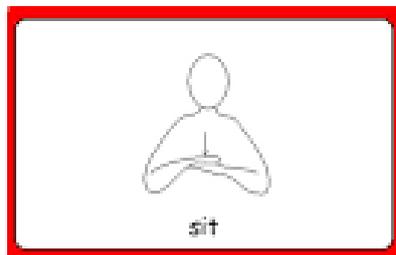
At Curnow School Makaton signing is used alongside, and in the order of, speech to reinforce key words and concepts. Staff have access to a wide range of books and computer based materials to be able to support their own CPD. Below is a list of ways in which Makaton should be used within the classroom and signposts to where information such as specific signs can be found. We will continue to provide training to staff and to parents through our CPD offer at regular intervals.

Makaton can help children/young people & adults to:

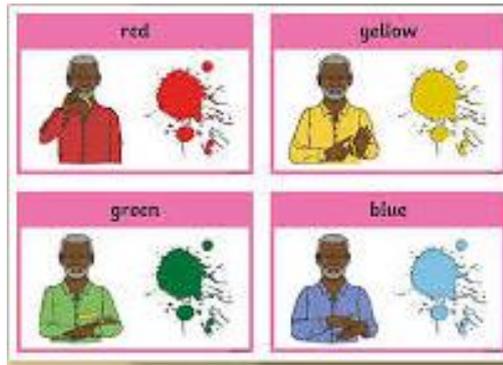
- Communicate what they need, want, think or feel
- Make themselves understood by using signs / symbols
- Develop their attention, looking and listening skills
- Develop their understanding of speech and promote their communication development
- Develop their language & literacy skills

## **Opportunities for use –**

- Whenever you are speaking! Think about the key words and the level of the child's comprehension – 'come and sit here' can be abbreviated to a directional sign of sit'.



- Through a topic – key topic signs for learning can be sent home as homework to be reinforced at home, displayed in class or form the lesson introduction.



- Singing and signing – this makes any singing session really inclusive. Singing Hands videos are readily available and a great resource for all ages.



- When sharing books, play or conversation.



### Key points to remember –

- Use the sign for the keyword (most important information-carrying word in the sentence. An example of this would be 'Do you want something to eat?' could be signed as 'you want something eat?' or simply 'eat?' depending on the child's level of comprehension. Facial expression supports the word, eg a puzzled face will make a verb a question.
- Remember to always speak at the same time as signing – the signs are there to support (augment) speech, not replace it
- Make sure you use eye-contact, facial expression and body language to convey the meaning of your communication
- You can do 'hand-over-hand' signing to help encourage your child to make the relevant gesture/sign, but children will develop their own ways of

signing which is fine. A signing dictionary can be developed to support other adults to understand a child's signs and which signs we will be teaching them next

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Your sign	My sign	Other things it may mean	How you can help
	<p>I will tap my right hand with my left hand. The more I want something the more vigorous this will become.</p>	<p>I might do this after something has finished to go back to an activity. There might be a considerable delay, sometimes 5 minutes after finishing.</p>	<p>Reinforce with language and signing 'more toast'. If you think I am asking for something that has finished validate this by saying and signing 'toast has finished'.</p>

- Reward all attempts to communicate! Even if their sign is not quite right, encourage them and then model the correct sign yourself (as you would with speech). Their signing will improve with time & practice
- Practice, practice, practice! Signing comes easier to some of us than others, but will only become more fluent and feel more comfortable with practice. Don't feel too worried about getting a sign wrong, everyone does and its fine. Without practice no-one progresses.

### Useful resources –

<https://www.makaton.org/> Official Makaton Charity website.

**School resources** for Makaton signs are held on the whole school system including signing videos. There are also a number of books in school which can be borrowed to support you to learn signs.

Singing Hands on <https://singinghands.co.uk/> , youtube or on video. From nursery rhymes, topic sets, carpool karaoke or pop songs for older students.

Tried and tested Mr Tumble, **Something Special**.

**Twinkl** have a great bank of signing resources.