

Signing with your child

Why using signs can help your child communicate and talk

Information for
parents and carers



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Signing with your child

Some children need extra help when learning to communicate. Your therapist may recommend using signing when talking to your child.

We often use body language, facial expression and gestures when we talk. These add meaning to what we are saying. Signs are easy to learn as many of them look like these natural gestures. Signs are special movements that we make with our hands. Each sign stands for a word.

Research has shown that signing is helpful. Signing does not stop children from talking, in fact research has shown that children who learnt signs first found it easier to learn words.

Signs can help your child...

- Say more words
- Experience successful communication
- Pay attention and listen when you are talking to them
- Understand what adults are saying by giving them extra clues.

Signs can help you...

- Understand what your child means when they do not have the words to say what they want
- Understand what your child means when their words are unclear.

We use a system of signs rather than children's own gestures. This helps everyone to share and understand the meaning of the signs.


Signs are used in the community. They are widely used in local schools and nurseries.

Free one day signing course

We run a free online signing course for parents and carers. This course teaches some useful, everyday signs and shows how to use them with your child.

Ask your child's therapist if you would like more information on signing courses.

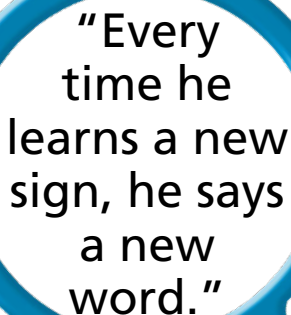
Quotes from parents who have been on the course:



"It was good learning signs and what to do with my child."



"A really excellent course - fun and informative."



"Every time he learns a new sign, he says a new word."

Useful Websites

- www.makaton.org
- www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people
- <https://singinghands.co.uk/>
- <https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/>
- <https://healthforunder5s.co.uk/>
- www.leicspart.nhs.uk/service/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy-service/



If you need help to understand this leaflet or would like it in a different language or format such as large print, Braille or audio, please ask a member of staff.

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