

What is Makaton

Makaton is a language programme that uses:

- **Speech**
- **Signs**
- **Symbols**

Aims of using Makaton:

- For **basic communication**
 - To help **understanding**
 - To develop **language skills**
- To facilitate **social interactions**
 - To help **build relationships**
- To increase **equal opportunities**
- To develop **pre-reading** and **pre-writing skills** towards literacy

Essential features of Makaton:

- Core vocabulary
- Resource vocabulary
- Always used with speech together with signs and or symbols
- Flexible teaching methods

Who uses Makaton?

- Babies, children and adults with a broad range of communication needs
 - Interactions of all kinds: Parents, carers, professionals and friends

- Education and service providers for translation of information to increase user access

Children and adults with difficulties such as:

- Poor attention and listening
- Understanding speech and language
- Understanding what will happen next
- Developing speech and language
 - Making themselves understood
 - Learning to read and write
- Expressing the full range of communication functions
 - What they want, their choices and preferences
 - How they feel and what they are thinking

Communication needs associated with:

- Profound, severe, moderate or mild learning difficulties
 - Autistic spectrum conditions
 - Physical disabilities
 - Sensory impairments
 - Developmental language disorders

Considerations and practice:

- Short sentence structure that is complete and sequentially correct
- Simple language structure using short and easy words
- Chucking- which is 'chopping up' longer sentences into shorter phrases

- Slow down speech- repeating – re-packaging- checking that understanding is taking place
- Replace pronouns with names for example replace he/she/ it with the name it represents e.g. 'mike sat down' instead of 'he sat down'
- Generally, all information carrying words (key words) communicated
- Can and should develop key word level relative to the user's ability to improve their communication skills further. May eventually lead to full pronoun use and use of tenses, etc.