

The importance of finding a way to communicate

Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills we need in life. Almost everything we do involves communication; everyday tasks such as learning at school, asking for food and drink, sorting out problems, making friends and having fun. These all rely on our ability to communicate with each other.

Talking does not just involve speaking. Watch someone talking, they will not just be saying words but they will also be using hand movements or gestures, facial expression, eye contact and body language (posture and movement). All this is communication.

Children and adults who have difficulty understanding and speaking can become frustrated or withdrawn. They may communicate this through their behaviour- such as screaming, kicking or hurting themselves or others.

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a language programme that uses speech with signs and symbols to help people communicate. It is different from British Sign Language which is used to support individuals in the deaf community, in that speech and signs are used together.

Makaton supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression.

Makaton includes the use of a range of visual strategies to support understanding- body language, facial expression, directionality, and placement.

Who uses Makaton?



Makaton is a language programme for adults and children with learning or communication difficulties.

It can support people living with:

- Autism
- Cleft lip and palate
- Developmental language disorder
- Down's Syndrome
- Global developmental delay
- Multi- sensory impairment
- Verbal dyspraxia

Learning to sign...

- If you would like to learn more Makaton signs there are many videos on You Tube.
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- An advisory teacher from the SEATSS service has created short videos of Stage 1 and Stage 2 Makaton signs- take a look at this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYvQ3ULh0WWJAYVzcV7xZoQ/playlists>

- The Makaton Society is an amazing resource. As part of their free resources, they can help you to develop your knowledge and use of signs with their 'Sign of the Week' and free downloads that include the following topics: Vocabulary, songs and stories, activities and games.

Email All enquires: help@makaton.org

Phone: General 01276 606760 Sales: 01276 606769

The Makaton Charity

Suite 3, Unit 4.3

Frimley 4 Business Park

Frimley, Surrey GU16 7SG

S.E.a.T.S.S are a very large **Specialist Advisory Team based in East London.**

You have a **YouTube** Channel with over 70 videos on:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/RedbridgeSEATSS/playlists>

Please subscribe to see our latest videos as they are updated regularly.

We also have a large **FREE resource website**

www.redbridgeserc.org

We run training across the UK and abroad- if you would like us to come and deliver training for you, please contact us at seatsstraining@redbridge.gov.uk

