

Makaton



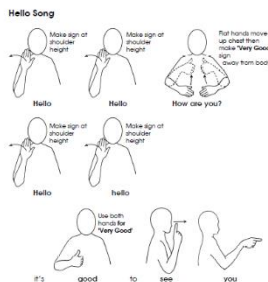
Mr Tumble from BBC's 'Something Special'

What is Makaton?

- Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable your child to communicate.
- Using signs can help your child if they have limited spoken language or if their speech is unclear.

Benefits of Makaton

- It aids a child's **understanding** of language i.e. the signs add visual support to words.
- Signs encourage adults to **simplify** their language – especially important when working with children with language difficulties.
- With meaningful **repetition**, children copy the signs and communicate.



How do I use Makaton?

- Makaton signs and spoken language should be used together at all times.
- Use natural facial expression and body language with the signs.
- It makes no difference if you sign with the left or the right hand as long as the signer is consistent.
- Some signs are normally made with one hand. Two hands can be used to add emphasis e.g. good, bad.
- It is acceptable to adapt the signs to the needs of the child i.e. children with poor fine motor skills.

**Let's talk
Makaton**

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See below to find out more about Makaton:

<https://www.makaton.org/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/something-special>