

Handout: Frequently Asked Questions about Makaton

Where do the signs used in Makaton come from?

The signs that are used in the Makaton Vocabulary in the UK come from British Sign Language (also known as BSL). The Makaton signs are standardised and so the same sign is used across the country by all Makaton users.

Will using Makaton stop somebody from talking?

No, providing speech is always used when signing. Research has shown that Makaton supports and encourages spoken language.

What difficulties are helped by using Makaton Signs and Symbols?

All types of Communication and Learning Difficulties, including:

- Profound, severe, moderate or mild learning difficulties
- Autistic Spectrum disorders
- Physical impairment
- Sensory impairment
- Specific language disorders

Makaton has also been found to help those for whom English is not their first language and in mainstream schools.

What are the main aims of using Makaton?

- Basic communication for all ages
- To help understanding
- To develop language skills
- To help build relationships
- To develop literacy skills for children and adults
- To develop numeracy skills for children and adults

Why does everyone need to know the signs?

Communication happens between at least two people so it is important that everyone in daily contact with a Makaton User shares their vocabulary and method of communicating.

Contact the Makaton Charity: www.makaton.org
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