

Makaton

Makaton is the use of signs and symbols to support spoken language. There has been extensive research into the use of Makaton and all the evidence shows that the use of Makaton promotes the use of spoken language, rather than replacing it. Makaton can support all children's early language and communication skills, as well as children with SEND, children who are visual learners or those who have language processing delays. The Early Years team in Solihull promote the use of Makaton in our nurseries, preschools and with our childminders. We offer training for professionals at a minimal cost.

The use of Makaton symbols helps children understand what is expected of them. Symbols can be used to help children understand what is happening now and what will happen next. Using symbols can help children to make and communicate their choices: for example, which snacks they want, or which toy they want to play with. Settings often use symbols to label cupboards or boxes to help children be independent in getting things out or putting things away.

Parents who want to learn Makaton to support their child's language development can find courses on the Makaton web page: [Makaton.org](https://www.makaton.org)

Just as there are lots of different spoken languages, there are lots of different signing systems; if you google signing for children you may be taken to other sign systems. There is nothing wrong with the other signs but if your child is or will be attending a Solihull nursery or school it is most likely they will be using Makaton. Therefore, we advise you to ensure the signs you are teaching are Makaton signs so to avoid confusing your child.

Some useful links to people who model Makaton well online are:

[**Makaton with Lucinda - YouTube**](#)

[**Something Special - CBeebies - BBC**](#)

[**CBeebies Grown-ups: The Benefits of Makaton for your child \(youtube.com\)**](#)

If your child uses Makaton but your child's setting is not yet using Makaton, please remind the setting that we offer them training: [Training \(solgrid.org.uk\)](https://www.solgrid.org.uk)