Creating a Makaton Friendly Environment

BARNET EARLY YEARS SEND ADVISORY TEAM

Contact:

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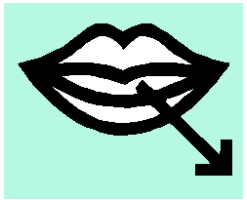
020 8361 2456 (Ext 1)

How Makaton can help

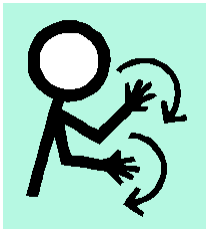
- Makaton signs – as well as gestures and pictures – give a visual clue to the meaning of words
- Visual information can be easier to understand
- It helps adults emphasise key words and simplifies the communication
- Slows down adult speech
- Encourages eye contact and attention
- Takes the pressure off speech
- It can reduce frustrations

Things to remember when signing

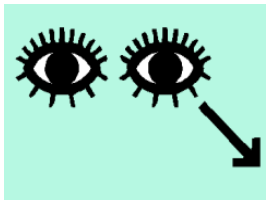
Speech



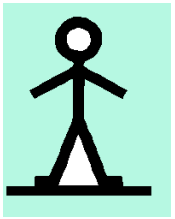
Clear signs



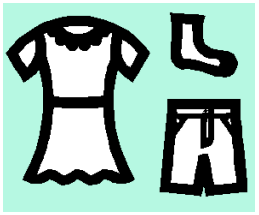
Sightline



Position



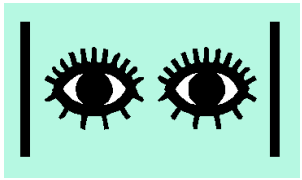
Clothing



Encouragement



Attention and concentration



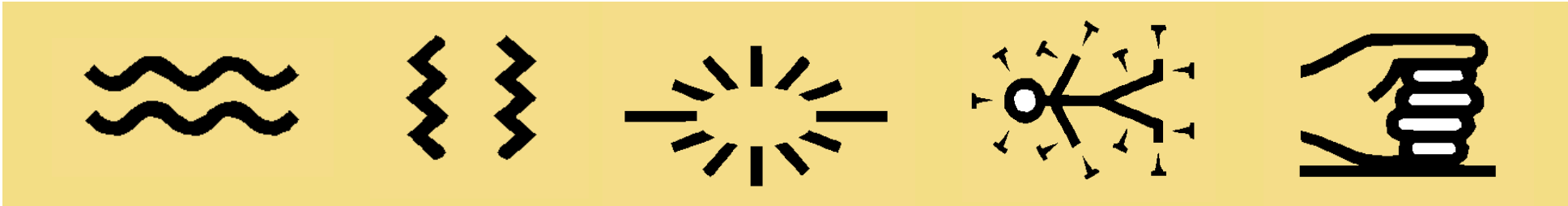


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Signing Techniques

There are particular techniques in signing that also help make the signs clearer. These include:

- **Directionality** – the direction in which the signs move
- **Placement** – where the signs are made
- **Movement** – the use of body movement to add meaning



Sources of information

- https://makaton.org/

For free resources and information about further training

- https://www.youtube.com/singinghandsuk
- Mr Tumble - BBC iPlayer

Barnet EYSEND Advisory Team run ‘Makaton Signing for Babies and Families’ each term. These are 4 one hour sessions. £25 cost to settings for up to 2 staff members. You will receive a Makaton certificate of participation and a book of Makaton Signs associated with the course. Please contact your linked EYSEND Advisor or the team on adviceline@eyit.barnetmail.net