



All About Makaton

Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people to communicate. It is designed to support spoken language and the signs and symbols are used with speech, in spoken word order.

With Makaton, children and adults can communicate straight away using signs and symbols. Many people then drop the signs or symbols naturally at their own pace, as they develop speech.

For those who have experienced the frustration of being unable to communicate meaningfully or effectively, Makaton really can help. Makaton takes away that frustration and enables individuals to connect with other people and the world around them. This opens up all kinds of possibilities.

Makaton uses signs, symbols and speech to help people communicate. Signs are used, with speech, in spoken word order. This helps provide extra clues about what someone is saying. Using signs can help people who have no speech or whose speech is unclear. Using symbols can help people who have limited speech and those who cannot, or prefer not to sign.

Makaton is extremely flexible as it can be personalised to an individual's needs and used at a level suitable for them. It can be used to:

- share thoughts, choices and emotions
- label real objects, pictures, photos and places
- take part in games and songs
- listen to, read and tell stories
- create recipes, menus and shopping lists
- write letters and messages
- help people find their way around public buildings

Today over 100,000 children and adults, use Makaton symbols and signs. Most people start using Makaton as children then naturally stop using the signs and symbols as they no longer need them. However, some people will need to use Makaton for their whole lives.¹

¹ <https://www.makaton.org/aboutMakaton/>

Makaton Course for Parents in Hackney

Beginners Makaton Workshops

Beginners Workshops are run in the Autumn term and the Spring term.

The Beginner course provides a practical introduction, with tips and discussions to help parents start using Makaton in everyday situations at home.

[Ann Tayler Children's Centre](#) - March 2018 - Makaton Beginner course dates:

Thursday 8th March - 9:30 - 12:30

Thursday 15th March - 9:30 - 12:30

Thursday 22nd March - 9:30 - 12:30

Thursday 29th March - 9:30 - 12:30

Follow up Makaton courses

A Follow Up course is run in the Summer term, for parents who have completed the first course and want to learn more signs and share ideas about using Makaton with their child.

[Linden Children's Centre](#) - May 2018 - Makaton follow up course dates:

Wednesday 2nd May 9:30 - 12:30

Wednesday 9th May 9:30 - 12:30

Wednesday 16th May 9:30 - 12:30

Wednesday 23rd May 9:30 - 12:30

All the courses consist of 4 half-day sessions (usually mornings once a week 9.30-12.30) at a Children's Centre.

Currently there is no crèche available for Makaton courses at Linden Children's Centre.

Crèche places at Ann Tayler Children's Centre subject to confirmation.

Online Makaton Resources

- **WWW.Makaton.org:**
 - <https://www.makaton.org/shop/shopping/browseStore/Free-resources>
 - <https://www.makaton.org/shop/shopping/externalResources/Makaton-Signing-For-Babies-Pocket-Book>
- **WWW.BBC.co.uk:**
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/makaton>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/british-sign-language-and-makaton>

Makaton Apps

Vocabulary eBooks:

- <https://www.makaton.org/shop/shopping/browseStore/Ebooks>

Makaton Signing for Babies:

- <https://www.makaton.org/shop/shopping/externalResources/Makaton-Signing-for-Babies-App-1>

MyChoice iPad:

- <https://www.makaton.org/shop/shopping/externalResources/Apps-MyChoicePad>