

Makaton at Nära Nurseries

At Nära Nurseries, we are committed to providing the very best Enrichment activities to complement and supplement the Early Years Foundation Stage. One of the unique Enrichment activities we offer is teaching children Makaton, a language programme which uses a combination of symbols, signs, and speech.

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a language programme that uses signs, symbols, and spoken words to support communication. It is especially beneficial for babies and young children as they develop their verbal communication skills. By learning Makaton, children are able to express themselves in more than one way, making it easier for them to communicate with both their peers and adults, especially when they may not yet have the words they need.



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How We Teach Makaton at Nära Nurseries

At Nära Nurseries, our team is fully trained in Makaton, and we integrate it into our daily routines and interactions with the children. Each week, we focus on teaching a new sign, reinforcing it through various activities and contexts. The 'Sign of the Week' is linked to children's interests or current learning focuses and is often chosen by our older children. This makes Makaton learning fun and engaging, ensuring that children feel confident using signs alongside their words.

Makaton isn't just about learning signs and has many other benefits for children, including developing and improving essential skills such as:

- Attention and listening
- Comprehension
- Memory and recall
- Organisation of language and expression

By incorporating signs with speech, children can better understand and remember words, which supports the natural development of spoken language. Makaton also helps children with additional needs to communicate and express themselves, ensuring that all children have the tools to succeed.

Benefits of Makaton for Your Child

1. Encourages Early Communication

Makaton provides children with a way to communicate before they are fully able to verbalize their thoughts. By using signs and symbols, even very young children can express their needs and feelings, which reduces frustration and enhances their confidence.

2. Encourages Early Communication

Combining signs with speech reinforces language learning and comprehension. This multi-sensory approach helps children retain new words more easily and boosts their overall language development.

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3. Enhances Social and Emotional Skills

Makaton allows children to interact with others in meaningful ways, promoting social connections. The ability to express feelings, needs, and thoughts helps children develop emotional intelligence and improves their relationships with peers and adults.

4. Inclusive Communication

For children with speech delays or additional communication needs, Makaton provides an accessible way to participate in conversations and group activities. This promotes inclusion and ensures every child feels heard and understood.

Learning Together - Sign of the Week

To strengthen the learning experience, and support strong parent partnerships and home learning opportunities, we share our 'Sign of the Week' with our families, so you can learn alongside your child at home. This collaborative learning approach helps reinforce Makaton signs, giving your child the confidence to use them in different settings, while also allowing you to be part of their learning journey.

Why Makaton?

Makaton is more than just a language tool – it's a way to enhance your child's communication skills, boost their confidence, and help them connect with the world around them. By integrating Makaton into both nursery and home routines, children can develop stronger language skills and gain a head start in their communication journey.

