

VISUAL AIDS

We decided to dedicate a separate section to visual aids as they can be used to support both language and behaviour. Communication and language and behaviour are also strictly linked; if a child struggles to make sense of what is going on around him or if cannot communicate his needs and wants, he will likely get frustrated. Children can also find difficult to move from a preferred activity to another task and this may result in tantrums.

- **NOW and NEXT board and Widgit Symbols**

The Now and Next Board is used to:

- Give a sense of structure and help your child understand what is expected from them

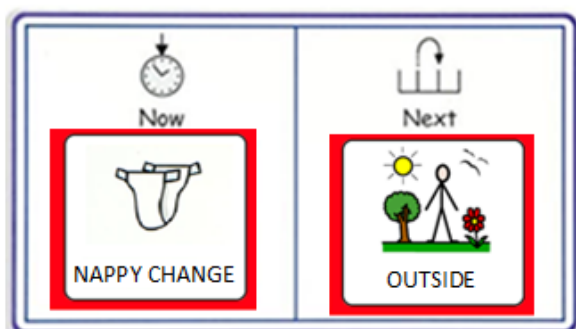
- Help your child transitioning from one activity to another

- Help your child finish a task before getting something motivating/rewarding

(this can help both when there is something your child doesn't want to do or when your child has tantrums over wanting something he can't have at the moment, e.g., a toy, a snack he wants RIGHT NOW)

How to use the Now and next board

Start with the less motivating task and keep the favourite one as NEXT to motivate your child complete the first task (e.g. **Now Toilet**, **Next outside**)



Show the board to your child, point to symbol and say “**now** toilet. **next** outside.”

Mark the end of the first task by saying “tidy up is finished (reinforce with the Makaton sign ‘finished’) **now** outside” whilst pointing to the **next** symbol.

You can also help your child to move on by encourage them to Encourage the child to move on by supporting them to ‘post’ the 'Now' symbol in a box before moving onto the 'Next' symbol.

Widgit symbols

These symbols are used from Speech and language therapists to support communication and understanding

Routines	activities

To find out more look at the Widgit website

https://www.widgit.com/resources/home-earlyyears/household_vocabulary/index.htm

You can also use photographs instead of symbols.



• **MAKATON.**

Makaton is a language programme that combines spoken language with **signs** and symbols.

Makaton signs help children who have limited speech to communicate and make themselves understood. Signs and symbols will empower your child's communication and language skills (attention, understanding, expressive) as well as improving his emotional and social skills; children can get very frustrated when they cannot make themselves understood. Makaton can reduce their frustration and help them having better interaction with others

Makaton can be also used with children who may have the language but find it hard to speak to others (they may prefer to sign rather than speak)

How to use Makaton

- Remember to make sure your child can see you and that you make eye contact when you are using Makaton signs
- Remember to speak and sign at the same time
- Use clear and short sentences and use facial expression, body language and gestures to support understanding
- Don't oversign

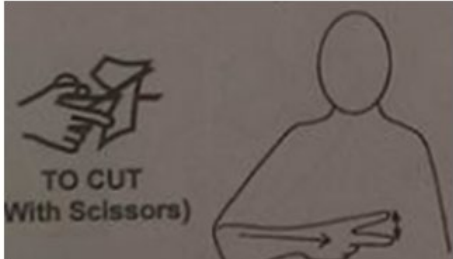
If you are using single words with your child, simply sign the word while you are saying it.

However if you are saying a sentence, just sign the important word in the sentence, which you want your child to learn (for example if your child is already familiar with the word 'bubbles' and you say 'more bubbles?' to invite him to request for more, then you can sign just 'more'. Or if you say 'bubbles is finished now!', only sign 'finished')

- Reward any attempt at communication and use the sign for 'Good' to give praise

Here are some common words you can sign to your child:

FAMILY (symbols and signs)	
Mummy/ Mother/ Mum   Tap twice	Brother   Knuckles rub as hands move alternately up and down
Daddy/ Father/ Dad   Tap twice	Sister   Tap middle of nose twice

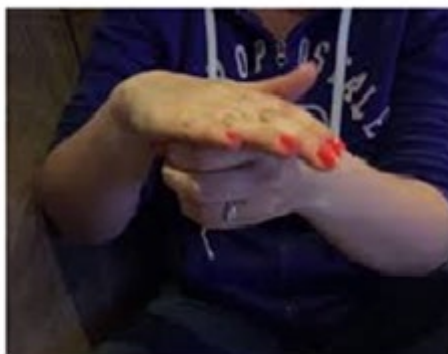
ACTIVITIES (symbols and signs)	
To Paint  	Bricks   Mime holding child's bricks
TO CUT With Scissors)  	To draw   Mime drawing

ACTIVITIES (how to sign)



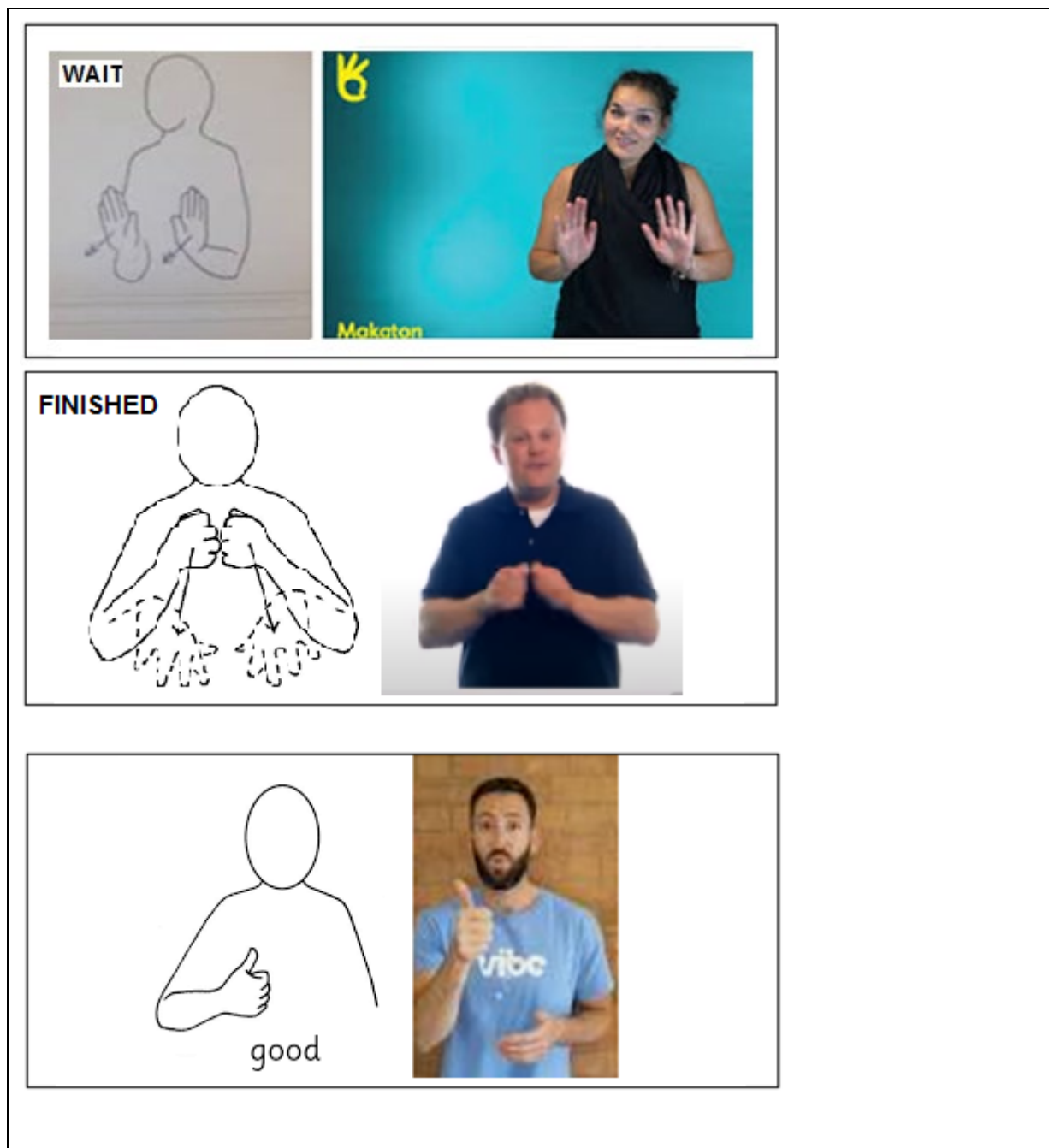
HOW TO SIGN:

MORE



HELP





Makaton is used in the [CBeebies show](#). You can find more signs at:

Mr tumble learn to sign first words

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVP95K6JF8g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flXsU4V0zz8>

or at the Makaton website

Free resources- The Makaton Library

https://makaton.org/TMC/Free_resources.aspx