

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD TO DEVELOP LANGUAGE?

Some children are visual learners and therefore, when teaching language, it can be helpful to use spoken words supported by a visual aid.

You can teach language in the following way:

- Spend 5 minutes with your child and let them choose a toy
- Make sure you sit completely silent until your child makes eye contact with you (this shows that you've got their full attention)
- When they make eye contact, name what they are playing with e.g. "cake" and use a visual cue e.g. you may use the Makaton sign for "cake" (the same signing that Mr Tumble does)

Don't worry if your child only uses signs to begin - it is positive that they are using signs to communicate. Often signing can be a helpful step towards developing spoken communication.

Don't worry if you don't know many signs – we can give you some and some of the staff at nursery might know them. Using natural everyday gestures can be effective too. You can also go on a Makaton course – you can book this by going to: www.makaton.org/training.

You could also download the Makaton Charity's free app on an iPhone or iPad.

You can also encourage language using ideas taken from the advice leaflet entitled "Creating opportunities for communication."