

SYMBOLS AND SIGNS TO SUPPORT UNDERSTANDING AND USE OF CORE VOCABULARY

Adults to use core vocabulary during everyday routines (e.g. getting dressed, eating breakfast, playing with toys)

Make sure you use the core vocabulary using a Total Communication approach (e.g. signing, spoken language and symbols). This is because if we use spoken language alongside a visual representation of words, we are providing the child with an alternative means of communication and may also support the development of spoken language.

Core vocabulary includes words that can be used in a variety of different situations

For example,

- More
- Help
- Stop/finished (using the same symbol)

Modelling these words alongside the symbol and sign will support your child's understanding of these words. Eventually they may begin to use the words (e.g. by signing, using single words or pointing to the symbol), accept your child's preferred method of communication and then continue to model the words.

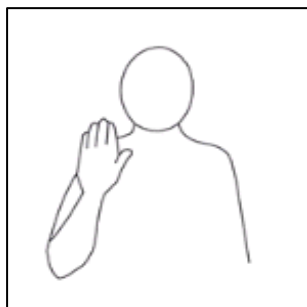
Makaton signs for Core Vocabulary

More



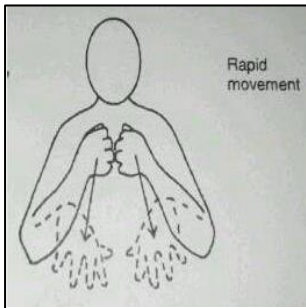
One hand makes a fist and the other hand is flat, palm down and then covers the top of the fist.

Stop



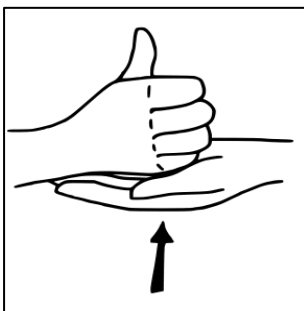
One hand placed out, palm facing outwards.

Finished



Both hands make a fist, facing inwards. Then rapidly move hands downwards stretching out fingers.

Help



One hand is flat, palm up and the other hand makes a fist. Put the fist onto the flat hand and then bring both hands upwards.

Symbols for Core Vocabulary

Please cut these out and show them (one at a time) to your child when modelling the words in the correct environment.

For example, show 'more' symbol in bubbles or 'help' symbol when your child wants help playing with a toy

More



Stop/ Finished



Help



It is helpful to have the symbols close at hand (e.g. on a lanyard) so that you don't have to stop and go find the symbol when the opportunity to model these words appears.

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