

St.Thomas' Nursery Information Leaflet.

St.Thomas' Nursery



A Parent's Guide to Signing

St.Thomas Nursery

St.Annes, FY8 1JN

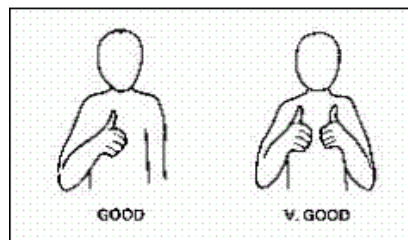
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'If you think you can, you can'



Signing!

How it can benefit

Sign Language used with young children has been proven repeatedly to assist with the development of verbal vocal communication, reduction of negative behaviors (usually caused by difficulty with expressive language skills) and shared bonding experiences. Signing is a tool which can help children who are shy or reluctant to communicate verbally to interact with others. It has given them greater confidence and self-esteem. Communication gaps can also be bridged when children are learning English as their second language.

At Nursery!

- We display simple Makaton symbols in all areas of the nursery. This reinforces the signs which we use regularly when verbally communicating with all children at nursery to emphasize the spoken word.
- A child friendly Makaton sign book is on hand . This Provides basic pictures for children to look at and can then show an adult what they are trying to tell us, which can alleviate frustration when verbal communication is limited

Practitioners also use the phrase “my ears are not working today, can you say that again” as a strategy, which encourages a child to keep trying to be understood. This puts the emphasis on the adult’s mistake, not the child’s, which doesn't impact on their confidence

At home!!

Using the signs we use at nursery will help your child become more familiar and confident in using them too. There are lots of useful resources available on the web, including games and print outs for you to enjoy together which can be found @ www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/activity/mr-tumble. This website is an addition to the popular children's TV programme

”something special - which focuses on signs, symbols and speech to help children communicate keeping it simple and fun!

Handy Hints

- * Always ensure your child can see your hands and say the word clearly at the same time.
- * Use facial expressions, hand placement and eye contact, to give further meaning and context.
- * Be consistent and persevere. For example *every time* you give a drink use the sign.
- * Have fun, use it as everyday communication, dont expect your child to sign back as it will take time the more you model, they will begin to mirror your actions.

Signing

Sign Language is the use of a hand shape, movement and placement to represent a word or concept. Sign Language utilizes the hands and eyes in addition to the ears and mouth. In addition to better communication, signing can help improve development of fine motor skills because of the dexterity required for communicating with hand gestures. Those who struggle with small muscle strength and coordination can build these skills as well as learn to communicate more efficiently with another language.

Further information can be accessed from the following: Oak tree children's centre.

Local library.

www.babies-and-sign-language.com/british-sign-language.

www.makaton.org/aboutMakaton/ www.underfives.co.uk/signs.

If you would like a paper copy, please see a member of staff in Nursery and they will be able to provide this. We are also able to provide copies with larger text if required.



Every Child Matters

5 Outcomes for children

Be Healthy

Stay Safe

Enjoy and Achieve

Make a positive contribution

Achieve Economic well being

