



Down's Syndrome Association (NI Office)
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Local Tutor tel: 02830851485 or 07891009336

MAKATON LOCAL TUTOR INFORMATION SHEET

BACKGROUND INFO

The Makaton Charity (formerly The Makaton Development Vocabulary Programme) was developed by Margaret Walker in 1972/3 and in 1976 the core vocabulary was established. The aim was to help people with learning disabilities communicate by using simple sign language devised from BSL for the deaf. However the difference being makaton sign always uses speech.

Makaton is therefore a complete communication programme using signs, symbols and speech. Research has shown visualising the words really helps those with communication problems and also helps young babies communicate their needs! For more information visit www.makaton.org.

LOCAL TUTOR BACKGROUND:

Local tutor Claire Lively has recently begun working with DSA Northern Ireland.

Claire is mother to 3 children. Her eldest child Megan has Downs syndrome and has used makaton since she was a baby (She is 9 now) Claire qualified in 2002 in primary school teaching specialising in early years. She has also completed training in the profile of learning associated with Downs syndrome with Symbol UK charity. Claire completed local makaton training in November 2008 and is a licensed tutor with The Makaton Charity.

She can offer the following training courses:

Makaton signing for babies

6 week course where 10+ signs a week learnt focusing on babies needs. Maximum no is 6 babies. Cost £6.50 per session per baby.

Makaton Taster sessions

An hour and a half session for those interested in finding out more about makaton. Maximum participants: 12. Cost £7 per person.

General Fringe users workshops

People who have some contact with learning disabilities may want to learn some basic signs for when they come into contact with makaton users. Can be done one morning/afternoon. Maximum participants: 12. Costs £7 per person.

Makaton Beginners Course for parents/carers.

This provides practical introductory workshop for parents/carers who need to use makaton in everyday situations. Signing goes up to stages 1-4 in core vocabulary. Certificate awarded. Can also be done as accredited training.

2 full day course (with a gap between each day) or 4 mornings/afternoons. Cost £25-£30 per person per day (includes booklet of signs/symbols) Max participants: 12.

Makaton Follow up Course for parents/carers

This concentrates on improving and developing signing skills and symbols skills. Further signs upto stage 8 of the core vocabulary are taught. Certificate awarded. Can also be done as accredited training. Done over 2 full days or 4 mornings/afternoons.

Cost £25-£30 per person per day (includes booklet of signs/symbols) Max participants: 12.