



SWINDON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

SIGNALONG in Swindon



What is Signalong?

- It encourages **Total Communication**. This means using a combination of speech, facial expression, body language, tone of voice and sign to communicate our message.
- It is based on BSL (British Sign Language) but only **key words** are signed. Key words are the important words that you want to emphasise in a sentence / phrase, for example: the dog is eating the biscuit.
- It is **sign supported communication**. You always **sign AND say** the word. This means that it will encourage language development, not hinder it, in any way.
- It's similar to Makaton and Mr Tumble's signs, but in Swindon we chose to use one system across all settings ...that choice was **Signalong**.
- Signs are introduced in **everyday, real-life situations** using objects or pictures. For example, every time you give your child a cup, you would say the word "cup", and use the sign alongside this.

Why sign with my child?

☺ There is no evidence that signing holds back speech and language.

☺ Signing can help **reduce frustration**. It gives your child a way of getting their message across.

☺ Signing helps to **develop a child's understanding of words**. Spoken words are fleeting and quickly gone. This can make them hard to learn. The combination of seeing a sign and making a sign can help children to remember new words.

☺ Signing will **help to gain your child's attention** as they will look at the actions that you make.

☺ Signing **slows down your rate of speech**. Slowing down your talking will make it easier for your child to follow.

☺ Signing is **fun** for both you and your child