



**Manchester Local
Care Organisation**

Leading local care, improving
lives in Manchester, with you

Using sign to support communication

Microsoft Teams
22nd November 2023

Laura Donelan & Cat Lappin

Speech and Language Therapists

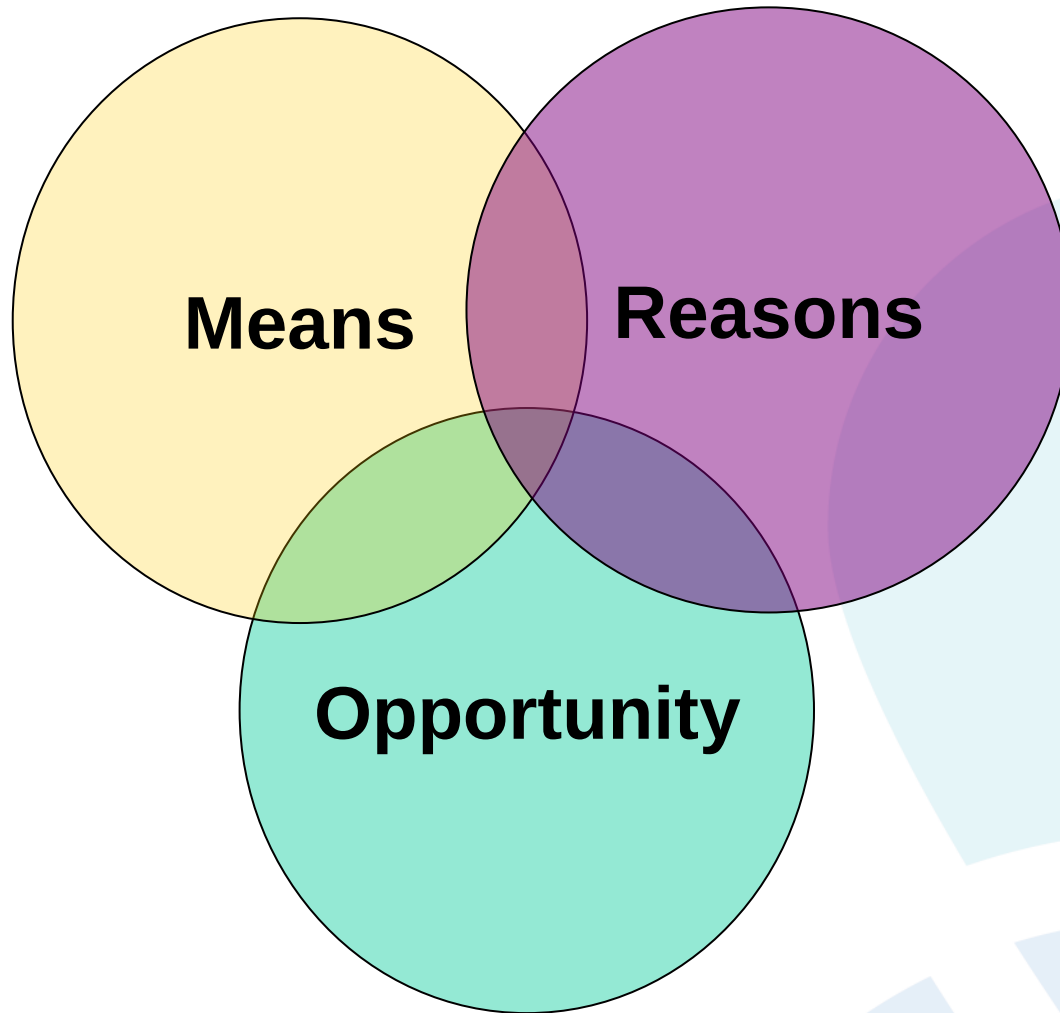
Powered by:



Workshop aims

- Introduction to signing systems
- Advantages and Disadvantages of signing
- Practice the Signed Alphabet
- Practice basic vocabulary

Communication



Means

Speech

Non-verbal communication

Pictures

Signs

Writing (text, email)

Tone of voice

Reasons

To make choices

Ask questions

Give information

To be sociable

Correct a misunderstanding

Ask for help

To express feelings

Signing systems

- Baby Signing
- British Sign Language
- American Sign Language
- Makaton
- Sign-a-long
- **Signed supported English (SSE)**

Who is signing for?

People who have:

- attention and listening difficulties
- difficulties understanding
- a hearing loss
- speech difficulties
- 'word finding' difficulties
- more than one language
- working memory difficulties

What happens if people can't communicate?

What happens if people can't communicate?

- May become passive and stop trying to communicate
- May resort to other means of communicating, e.g.
biting/hitting/scratching/kicking/pushing/pulling
- May become frustrated and have tantrums
- Only communicates with a few people
- Few chances to make choices
- Difficult to communicate with peers



Key Word Signing

In signed Supported English we:

- Simplify what we say
- Use the normal word order
- Only sign the key words carrying information
- Always remember to **SPEAK** when we sign

Identifying key words

- Give me the bread
- Give me the apple and the cheese
- Go upstairs and get your bag and book.

Alphabet

A B C D E F G H I J K
L M N O P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z

Basic Vocabulary

- Core words
- Animals
- Activities
- Social
- Going out
- Verbs
- Drinks
- Food
- Family
- Transport
- Classroom vocab
- Subjects
- Questions
- Colours
- Concepts
- Emotions
- Days of the week
- Weather



Modelling

We always model spoken language to children – we can do EXACTLY the same with signs!

Children hear a word many times before they use it.

Children need to see a sign many times before they use it.

Prompting

Levels of prompting:

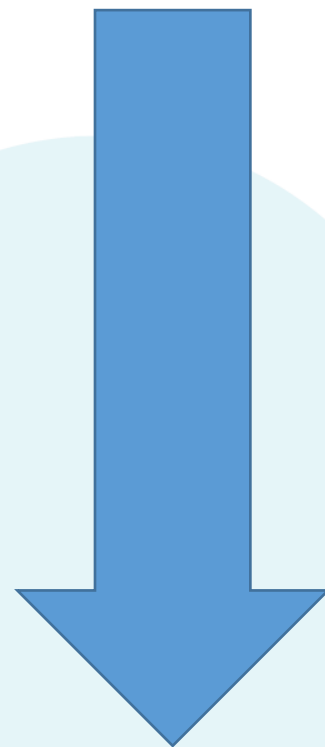
Hand over hand

Partial hand over hand

Imitation

Starting the sign

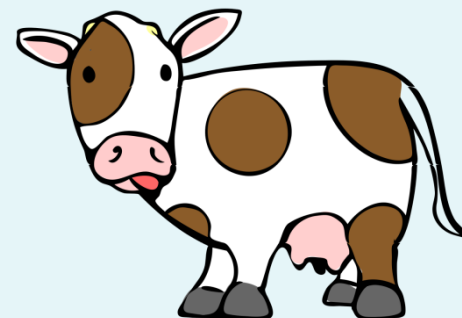
Expectant pause



Sign Song

Old McDonalds farm

Everyone practice singing and signing
the key words.



Activity

- Pick 3 functional signs from the core vocabulary sheet and practice with your teams at school.
- Feedback – how did you use your signs? Did it improve the child's understanding and communication?
- Laminate & display some of the sign posters for areas and activities in the classroom to support your learning.
- Look through the signs for the months as there may be some useful signs for this time of the year.

And finally.... Enjoy practicing!
See you on the 6th December