

 **Handbook Guidance**

Welcome to Signalong! The handbook will give you an explanation of how Signalong works, how to implement it and the basic hand shapes and signs that you can use at home with your child to aid communication. You do not need to teach all the signs to your child first, just read through the manual and begin to use the signs as you speak during normal conversational sentences making emphasis on the key word that you are using a sign for. It will really help to say consistent once you begin to use Signalong. You may find it easier to practice and master a few signs at a time and build on your vocabulary.

The manual is split into sections. This is a summary of what to expect from each section.

1. Introducing communication –guides you through a basic understanding of different communication.

2. Why Signalong? and 3. How we do it - provide information on the history of Signalong and how we communicate by using the different handshapes.

4. Placement – A description of your signing space.

The following sections offer illustrations and instructions on the different shapes and movements required to achieve different signs. Once you are familiar with these it will give you an understanding of how signs are formed.

5. Basic handshapes,

6. Additional handshapes,

7. Orientation and Movement

8. Name Signing – How to use the spring board method to build a sign name to help differentiate between different people.

At the end of the training handbook are some basic signs which can all be useful for communication within and outside of the home, when possible. To extent this bank of signs we have uploaded the free resources with additional signs, which Signalong has made available.

Happy Signing!