



Vale of Evesham School

'a specialist school for cognition and learning - enabling inclusion in the community'

Communication: Signalong

As part of the school's Improvement Plan the Vale of Evesham School is developing into a total communication school. This aims to include the use of objects of reference, symbols, speech, gesture and signs within the whole school. Signing is just one small part of this total communication approach. The signing system we use in school is called 'Signalong'.

Signalong is a sign-supported system supporting individual's expressive and receptive language.

Signs are always used with the spoken word and only key words are signed. This is to help the child to focus on the information carrying words in a sentence and therefore helps them to understand the main point of the message.

Signalong has 6 core points to form their philosophy as follows:

1. Based on BSL signs although Signalong uses one concept per sign.
2. Sign-supported system. Must be used with the spoken word. Uses spoken word order unlike BSL.
3. Part of a total communication system.
4. Key word signing, only information carrying words are signed, ie there is no need for signs such as 'is' or 'the'.
5. Follows a natural course of development using real objects in real situations.
6. Needs-led system, signalong will develop signs upon request if not already established



Wendy signing the '**sign of the week sign**' during assembly.



Geordie hard at work signing with Wendy-brushing, drinking & mixing.

As a way of developing Signalong, not only in school but also in the home environments of our pupils, Wendy is our Signalong tutor who is able to carry out training courses for staff, parents and friends. This has been a great success so far and there has been lots of interest shown in attending such courses in the future.

In school we have developed a core vocabulary for our pupils and have bought the appropriate signs from 'Signalong' in order to develop our own signing manuals..

We also have weekly focus posters which are strategically placed around the school. Hopefully everyone (including all staff) will be confidently signing all the signs featured in the booklets by the end of the school year — Good Luck Everyone!

All Parents!

For a Signalong introductory course contact Wendy Cook: Tel: 01386 443367