

Communication Skills and Signing at the Redway School

Many children with communication difficulties benefit from an additional means of communication such as signing. Children may not hear or attend to a brief spoken word but a sign or hand gesture adds emphasis to the word and helps the child attend to the speaker. Children who learn to use a few signs, which are understood by those around them, remain motivated and interested in communication. They continue to learn about interaction and words even though they cannot yet speak clearly. Children may use signs for only a short time before beginning to speak or they may continue to rely on signing for a long time.

Developing and Using Signing

Developing and Using Signing is an approach to signing developed by Emma Hawkins, Rachel Key and Ann Miles with the support of Signalong.

The approach is based on the principles that communication is used for a purpose and takes place in a social situation. Initially children communicate simple needs but as they grow in their understanding of the world they need the language to communicate more complex ideas. We believe that sign teaching should help children to follow normal patterns of development. ***Developing and Using Signing*** is part of The Redway School approach to communication development.

Learning to sign at The Redway School

The school puts on regular courses in basic signing and child development for all.

The six hours course, which is usually delivered over two sessions, follows the “**Developing and Using Signing**” manual. It is accredited as an introductory course through The Signalong Group. The course works through the manual and teaches participants both the signs and how to implement them in a natural context. It is designed to be as practical as possible, advising the participants in how to support learners in using signing.

The course groups are kept to a maximum of 12 participants to 2 tutors which ensures that individual help and support are always available.

The current costs are:

£80 for professionals

£30 for parents or home carers of learners who would benefit from signing.

If you would like more information about the next course please contact:

Lorraine Brown
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Standing Way,
Eaglestone, MK5 5LD,
01908 209305

Comments and feedback from previous participants:

“The course was very fun; it had a good mixture of theory, practical, games, and revision, a great balance.”

“I feel that I learnt a lot.”

“Good pace, very friendly and supportive of people at all levels of experience.”

“Very informative and enjoyable.”