

What is Makaton?

A unique language programme which may be used as

- a systematic multi-modal approach for the teaching of
 - communication skills
 - language skills and
 - literacy skills
- a source of highly functional vocabulary for
 - the person with communication needs, and
 - their interactive partners

Essential Features of Makaton

- Core Vocabulary (450 concepts)
- Resource Vocabulary (7000+ concepts)
- Used with speech, signs and / or symbols
- Flexible teaching methods

Core Vocabulary

- 450 words / concepts
- Functional
- Everyday communication
- High frequency
- Organised in stages
- Personalised
- Basic level is grammar-free

Who Uses Makaton?

- Children and adults with a broad range of communication needs
- Interactors of all kinds: parents, carers, professionals, friends
- Education and Service Providers for translation of information to increase user access

Children and Adults

with difficulties such as:

- poor attention and listening
- understanding speech
- understanding what will happen next
- developing speech
- making themselves understood
- telling people
 - what they want
 - how they feel
 - what they are thinking
 - their choices and preferences
- learning to read and write

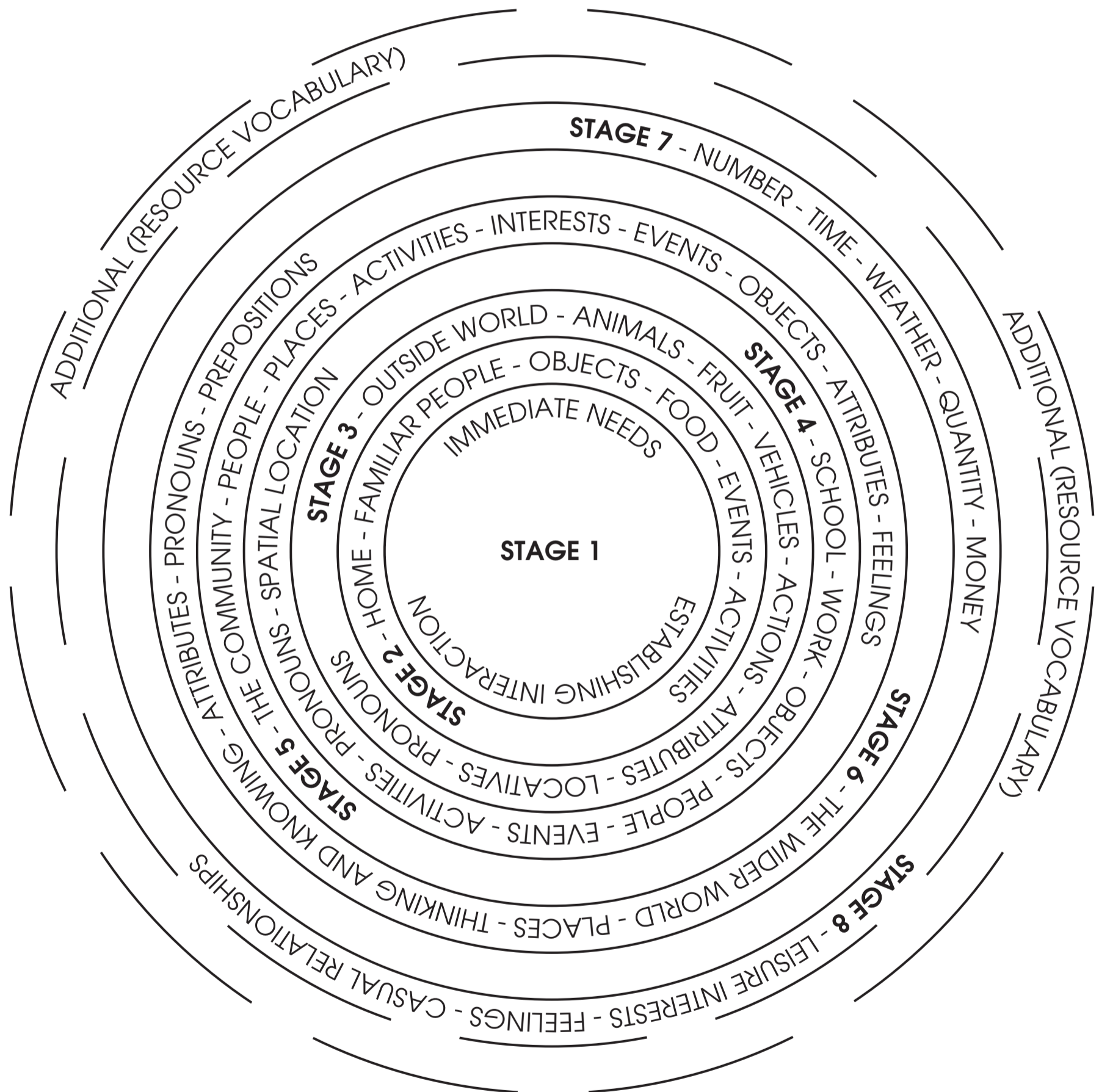
Communication Needs Associated with

- profound, severe, moderate or mild learning difficulties
- autistic spectrum disorders
- profound - severe physical impairments
- sensory impairments
- specific language disorders

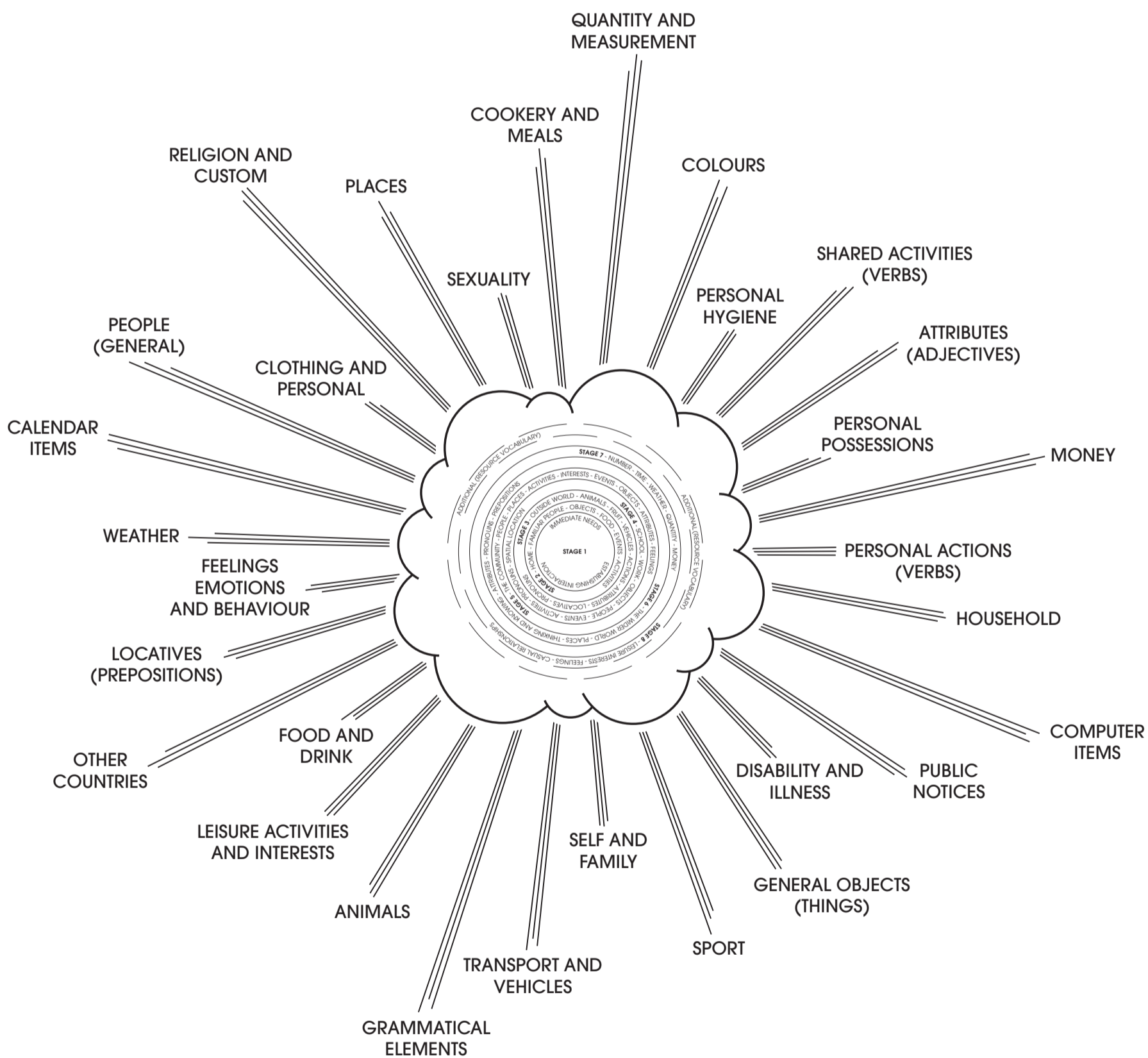
Aims of Using Makaton

- for basic communication
- to help understanding
- to develop language skills
- to facilitate social interaction
- to help build relationships
- to increase equal opportunities
- to teach pre-reading and pre-writing skills towards literacy

Makaton Core Vocabulary



Makaton Resource Vocabulary



Examples of Makaton Symbol and Sign Use

SYMBOLS

Functional symbols:



Key word symbols:



Symbol reading:



SIGNS

Functional signs:



Key word signs:



Full version:



Corker, J. & Rice, J. (1996) Finding a Voice. Honormead / Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (Social Services)
Crinoline House, Effingham Square, Rotherham S65 1AW