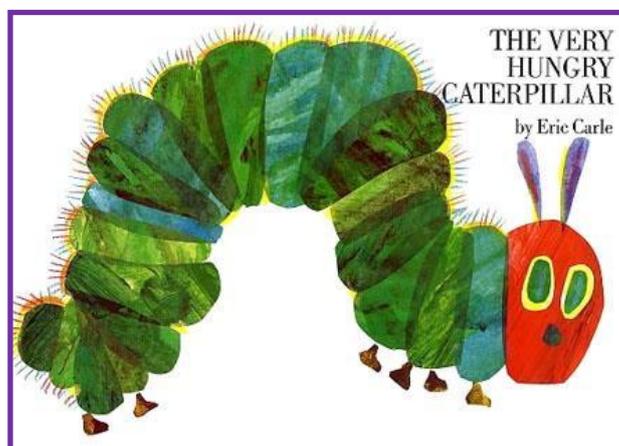


Case study – Roundabout Children’s Centre

Type: Early Years **Location:** East Sussex **Website:** <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/childrens-services/roundabout-childrens-centre-and-deans-cc>

2014 was Roundabout Children Centre's first year in taking part in *No Pens Day Wednesday*. However, whereas the majority of those who participated in the project used it directly as an opportunity to bolster children's speech, language and communication skills, at Roundabout we used it as the inspiration to share practical resources from the Communication Trust and learn some key Makaton signs and symbols to use with the children. Hopefully this case study will show that the *No Pens Day Wednesday* materials can be adopted and interpreted for a variety of purposes.

The majority of our time was spent learning about Makaton. It is the only language programme listed on The Communication Trust's [What Works database](#) that uses both signs and symbols to help people communicate. We began by learning the signs for different items of food, before going on to tell a signed version of the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.



The reaction from the professionals and volunteers was fantastic; and following the day I had people requesting regular sessions and letting me know that they had requested further training in order to continue the work that we started on *No Pens Day Wednesday*. Furthermore, it is clear that the vocabulary and story that we went over on the day is being used, as I had colleagues stopping me to ask questions such as 'what was the sign for cucumber?'



No Pens Day Wednesday provided the perfect opportunity to promote the resources and skills used to develop speech and language skills for children in the Early Years. In addition to this, I also found some of their other resources really helpful, particularly in spreading the word about the work that The Communication Trust does, which the majority of my audience was unfamiliar with. In particular, people were very positive about the Trust's 'Misunderstood', 'Universally Speaking' and 'Small Talk' publications, especially the Polish version, as we have a significant Polish community.

The day was a real success and we would definitely take part in the project again in the future. It's been great to be able to speak to The Communication Trust about how we ran our day and to share some of our thoughts about ways the event could be developed in the future!

Rebecca Bryant
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