

STRATEGIES

Large font size (min 18 pt) on all signs, clear space around pictures/words

Grouping/tables with able peers - modelling good speech and behaviour

Makaton—bridge to speech

Speak clearly at child's eye level, repeat back attempts at speech

Early speech sound work e.g. Jolly Phonics, See & Learn etc - always linked to visual

Visual timetables - now/next, 2 options e.g. Milk/water

Repetition - scale and duration

Small steps approach with clear goals

Short breaks or changes of activity to refocus/ provide a rest

Independence—ensure furniture is small enough and activities are accessible

Additional Resources

Down Syndrome Association www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

Down Syndrome International <https://ds-int.org/>



York Down Syndrome Support Group

www.ydssg.org

Email: professionalsnetwork@ydssg.org

Join the professional's group on Facebook - search for **York Down Syndrome Professional's Network** and request to join



What is Down syndrome?

Down syndrome is a genetic condition that results in some level of learning disability and a particular range of physical characteristics. The condition is caused by the presence of an extra copy of chromosome 21 in a baby's cells.

AREAS OF STRENGTH

Strong visual awareness and visual learning skills

Ability to learn to use sign, gesture and visual support

Ability to learn and use the written word i.e. learn to read

Ability to learn from pictorial, concrete and practical materials

Keen to communicate and socialise with others

Tendency to model behaviour and attitudes from peers

Structure and routine



FACTORS THAT INHIBIT LEARNING

Auditory and visual impairment

Delayed motor skills - fine and gross

Speech and language impairment

Short term and working memory weaknesses

Shorter concentration span

Difficulties with consolidation and retention

Difficulties with generalisation, thinking and reasoning

Sequencing difficulties

Avoidance strategies