

Tips for Educating Students With Down Syndrome



Use person-first language. Person-first language is putting the person before the disability. Don't say "Down syndrome girl." Use the child's name and if needed, add that she has Down syndrome. The correct term is "Down syndrome," not "Down's." A child does not have Downs.



Have high expectations. Hold the child to high expectations for behavior and learning in the classroom.



Realize that you play a big role in your student's success! Create a respectful, successful environment for your students. Use strengths, interests and positive feedback as motivators. It is a privilege to play such a vital role in someone's life!



Explain Down syndrome to your students. Talk to your students about Down syndrome. Do an ability awareness lesson in your classroom. Down Syndrome of Louisville is happy to come to your class and assist with this.



Identify how the child learns. Children with Down syndrome CAN learn, but all children learn differently. Figure out how your student learns, what motivates them and what their strengths are. Work with other team members to modify the classwork so that your student can succeed.



Read the student's IEP . Make a "Goals at a Glance" cheat sheet to have information easily accessible. Look for ways to incorporate your student's goals into daily class routines and activities.



Partner with the child's parents. No one knows your student better than his/her parents. Network and communicate with them regularly.



Be aware of any health and safety concerns Be sure you're aware of any medical concerns and/or conditions. Find out if the student has any limitations for recess, PE and/or food.

