

# Down's Syndrome

## The Facts

Down's syndrome is a genetic disorder and occurs when a baby is born with an additional chromosome.

- Occurs in about 1 of every 1000 live births
- Children with Down's Syndrome have a specific learning profile with characteristic strengths and weaknesses

## Useful Website

[www.downs-syndrome.org.uk](http://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk)

[www.sdsa.org.uk](http://www.sdsa.org.uk)

## For further information on this issue please contact:

Training & Development  
Support Officer for  
Northern Ireland

The Boys' Brigade NI Headquarters  
Rathmore House  
126 Glenarm Road  
LARNE  
BT40 1DZ  
Tel. 028 2827 2794  
Fax. 028 2827 5150  
email: [nitraining@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:nitraining@boys-brigade.org.uk)

OR

Mr Colin Millar  
Boys' Brigade Disability  
Network Consultant

25 Whitethorne Brae  
Newtownards  
Co. Down  
BT23 8EX  
Tel. 028 9181 2398

*(Compiled by: Colin Millar)*



Northern Ireland Headquarters  
& National Training Centre  
Rathmore House, 126 Glenarm Road, Larne, Co. Antrim BT40 1DZ

Tel: 028 2827 2794

Email: [larne@boys-brigade.org.uk](mailto:larne@boys-brigade.org.uk)

Web: [www.bbni.org.uk](http://www.bbni.org.uk)

## GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

## Basic Facts for Leaders

# Down's Syndrome



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Bility

NORTHERN IRELAND

## General Features

- Delayed motor skills – fine and gross
- Auditory and visual impairment
- Speech and language impairment
- Poor auditory memory
- Limited concentration span
- Difficulties with thinking, reasoning making links from one activity to another
- Sequencing difficulties
- 40-50% will have heart problems
- Respiratory problems, coughs & colds

## Areas of the BB programme which would present difficulty for the boy

### Anchor Boy

- GAMES** — Gross motor skills and memory
- CRAFT** — Fine motor skills and memory
- STORY** — Concentration

### Junior Section

- PHYSICAL EDUCATION** — Gross motor skills and memory
- BADGE CLASSES** — Concentration, thinking and reasoning
- GROUPWORK** — Language difficulties, auditory memory

### Company Section

- PHYSICAL EDUCATION** — Gross motor skills and memory
- BADGEWORK** — Reasoning skills, concentration span memory



## Useful Strategies

- Make sure rules and routines are explicitly explained
- Speak directly to the pupil and reinforce your message with:
  - facial expression
  - pictures
  - concrete materials
- Give the boy time to process language
- Listen carefully – your ear will adjust to his speech patterns
- Think about why inappropriate behaviour has occurred i.e.
  - Did the pupil understand the task?
  - Is the task too hard or too easy?
  - Are the materials appropriate?
  - Is the task too long?
- Use simple and familiar language

Please note these are general strategies

### EACH BOY IS UNIQUE

It is therefore important to speak to his parent(s) to gain individual relevant information.