

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

www.sdsa.org.uk

For further information on this issue please contact:

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GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

Basic Facts for Leaders

Down's Syndrome



Dis
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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.