MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

Support communication using recommended approaches

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Key areas to support' from the Guide: Down syndrome and learning

Includes:

Use clear, concise language

Teach conversation skills

Utilise role play across the curriculum

Useful resources

Use clear, concise language

Consider your use of language. Support important information and instructions with pictures, objects and gestures.

- ✔ Use fewer words.
- ✔ Slow down your rate of speaking.
- ✔ Speak clearly and directly to students, taking care over similarly-sounding words such as “trees” and “cheese”.
- ✔ Give students more time to process information.
- ✔ Explore a range of visual communication tools to support classroom routines and prepare for transitions.
- ✔ Use students’ names to gain attention before giving an instruction or asking a question.
- ✔ Display new vocabulary on a whiteboard or chart.

Teach conversation skills

Supporting students with Down syndrome to be good conversation partners.

Video hosted on Youtube http://youtu.be/mBhiEO4YGZk

No captions or transcript

Source:
Will Schermerhorn (US)
https://youtu.be/mBhiEO4YGZk

Utilise role play across the curriculum

Source:
Kathy Cassidy
https://www.flickr.com/photos/kathycassidy/13679851725/

View full image (1.7 MB)

Useful resources

Primary education support pack

Ten units providing teaching strategies for different curriculum areas, learning skills and social skills.

Publisher: Down's Syndrome Association

Visit website

Secondary education support pack

Twelve units focusing on different curriculum areas, learning skills, and social skills.

Publisher: Down's Syndrome Association

Visit website

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