

Support literacy and numeracy using recommended approaches

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Key areas to support' from the Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Includes:

- Use recommended reading activities
- Adopt practical hands-on approaches
- Build phonics skills
- Build auditory memory
- Take a multi-sensory to teaching numeracy
- Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support literacy and numeracy using recommended approaches](#)

Date

20 April 2024

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-literacy-and-numeracy-using-recommended-approaches

Use recommended reading activities

Examples of recommended activities to support reading for students with Down syndrome.

- ✓ Make short phrases of 2–3 words using previously-learned words. Select words that will have high interest for the student.
- ✓ Create sentence strips or Velcro-backed cards. Students can copy a sentence structure to make their own sentences in response to an image.
- ✓ Create books with students based on the sight words and sentences they are learning. Give students frequent opportunities to read them.
- ✓ Play games using sight words; practise in relevant settings.
- ✓ Emphasise and provide practice reading connecting words – for example, “and”, “or” and “but”.
- ✓ Use repetitive sentence patterns to help match words to pictures, sequence, predict and expand on their sight words – for example, “I like ...”.

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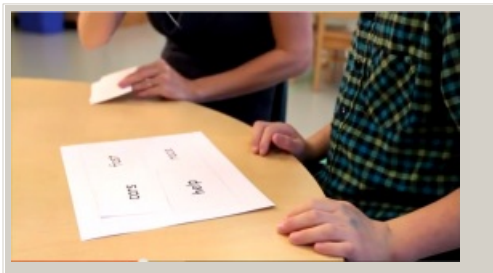
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Adopt practical hands-on approaches

Strategies and practical ideas to support beginning readers with Down syndrome.



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

No captions or transcript

Source:

[DSRFCANADA \(Canada\)](#)

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Build phonics skills

Activities to support the development of phonics skills and reading fluency.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/4xabdeH34ow>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[DSRFCANADA \(Canada\)](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCQ9LYhISvhZjqBnokVNAPw>

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Build auditory memory

Reading strategies for building auditory memory and sound discrimination for students with Down syndrome.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/unKKz2Fe5hc>

No captions or transcript

Source:

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCQ9LYhISvhZjqBnokVNAPw>

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Take a multi-sensory to teaching numeracy

Allow students to develop concepts using all their senses. Connect activities to real life whenever possible.

- ✓ Use concrete materials and hands-on activities.
- ✓ Maximise the use of visuals and support learning with visual materials, cues and supports where possible.
- ✓ Break tasks into small component steps and provide lots of practice and reinforcement.
- ✓ Find extra activities to practise and consolidate skills in a range of contexts.
- ✓ Revisit and consolidate previously-learned skills before introducing new material that builds on them.
- ✓ Relate mathematics to daily living skills wherever possible.
- ✓ Use simple language – explicitly teach the language of mathematics alongside the concepts.
- ✓ Use app games for skills practice – they increase motivation and allow intensive repetition of skills.

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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](#)



Special iApps

Apps designed to be suitable for typically-developing children and those with learning difficulties or poor fine motor control.

Publisher: Special iApps

[Visit website](#)

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