



## Why do we need a special education support pack for learners with Down syndrome?

People with Down syndrome have a specific learning style and profile. Parents, Educators and Learners Assistants need to know what these are. This pack will enable you to know what the learning style and profile is, how it effects learning and how best to support the child during his/her school years.

## Down syndrome today!

Some of the beliefs that still exist today about children with Down syndrome is the belief that they cannot be educated and there is very little to expect from them except to keep them in institutions where they live their short lives. This belief is beginning to prove people wrong.

A number of years ago there were very few children with Down syndrome who were attending pre-school or mainstream schools and joining in social activities with typically developed brothers, sisters, cousins and friends. Now we are seeing a growing number of children with Down syndrome participating in all of these activities. Changes in education law have given children with Down syndrome the right to full time education.

We are noticing that, given the chance and support to develop their self-help skills and independence, people with Down syndrome can respond positively to many of today's challenges in regular schools, colleges and further education, employment and independent living.

## The 124 page pack comes in 10 Units and includes topics such as:

- Unit 1a - Introduction to Down syndrome and their specific learning styles;
- Unit 1b - Legislation and Guidance, laws, policies and guidelines, useful reading;
- Unit 2 – Effective strategies for inclusion such as creating an inclusive school, classroom planning and individual support plans and using additional adult support effectively;
- Unit 3 – Developing Language Skills, Language development in Down syndrome, Strategies to promote language, including signing, teaching reading to teach talking;
- Unit 4 – Accessing the Curriculum, planning for differentiation, suggested access strategies;
- Unit 5 – Reading, learning to read and getting started, recommended software;
- Unit 6 – Developing Writing Skills – Fine motor development and how to develop these skills, reasons for delays, letter formation, writing phrases, alternative methods, developing sentence structure, extending writing, spelling;
- Unit 7 – Acquiring Mathematics and Numeracy Skills, developing basic numeracy, maths skills, language of maths, difficulties associated with learning maths,
- Unit 8 – Promoting Positive Behaviours and Social Skills, Behaviour, strategies, causes of inappropriate behaviour, promoting social inclusion;
- Unit 9 – Successful Transitions, Starting school, moving from pre-school to primary, transition from primary to secondary and high school;
- Unit 10 – Computers as an aid to learning, computers and the curriculum, advantages, computers in school and children with Down syndrome and useful websites.

Contact [dssaoffice@icon.co.za](mailto:dssaoffice@icon.co.za) or 0861-369-672 for more information or to order your Education Support Pack.