

Special Education Support Service: Down Syndrome

Tips for Consideration: Post-Primary

Note: The Special Education Support Service wishes to acknowledge and thank Fidelma Brady, former Education Officer with Down Syndrome Ireland, for permission to use this information.

Consider the following:

- to involve the teenager in all aspects of school life and school routines
- to support social independence in school and the development of friendships with peers
- to support the development of leisure skills and inclusion with peers in break and lunchtimes
- to encourage, model and expect age-appropriate, socially acceptable behaviour at all times
- to be familiar with the research findings which demonstrate a specific cognitive profile associated with Down syndrome and to adapt teaching methods appropriately
- to provide access to all areas of the school curriculum at a level appropriate for the individual teenager
- to recognise the importance of teaching reading and writing daily
- to develop speech, language and working memory skills as well as literacy skills and identify how these can be absorbed into the curriculum
- to facilitate independent learning and the ability to work and to learn as part of a group
- where possible to make full use of computer aided learning, with appropriate software for individual and group work