

Down's Syndrome

Condition:

Approximately two children with Down's Syndrome are born in the UK every day. Around one in 1000 babies will have Down's Syndrome, which is caused by the presence of an extra chromosome in the child's cells. All children with Down's Syndrome will have a varying degree of learning disability. Both 'Down Syndrome' and 'Down's Syndrome' are commonly used.

Problem Areas:

- Difficulties understanding, learning and remembering new things.
- Problems generalizing any learning in new situations.
- Possible difficulties with a number of social functions e.g. communication, caring for themselves, or health and safety.
- The words 'mild', 'moderate', 'severe' and 'profound' are also used with learning disability and it is advised that specific guidance is sought from parents regarding their child.

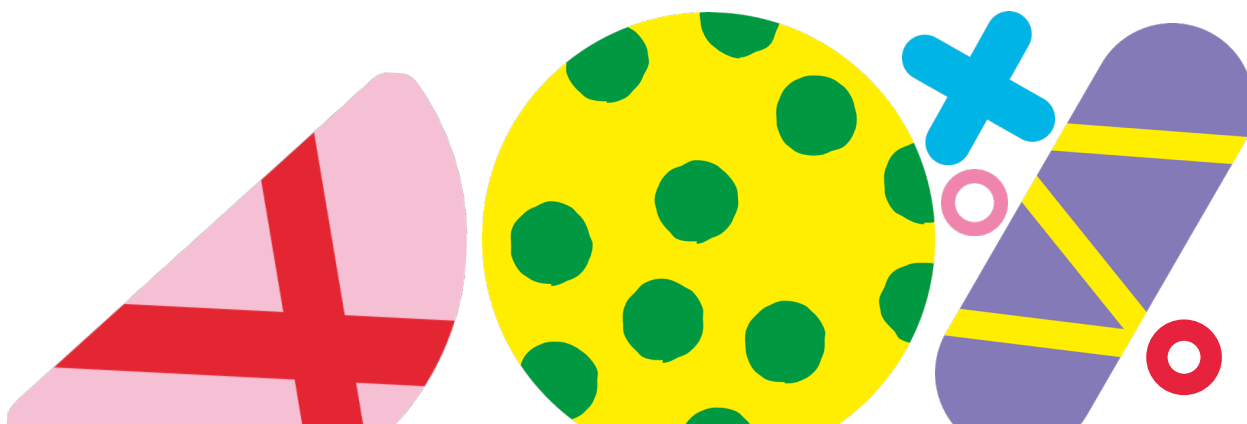
Support strategies for your Group:

Refer to the strategies provided in the related info sheet 'Learning Difficulties/Disabilities' - scan the code or visit urbansaints.org/belong16



In addition:

- Be patient; give children with Down's Syndrome's plenty of time.
- Remember that a child with learning disability might use other forms of communication such as Makaton or Sign-a-long.
- Never make the assumption that the child cannot understand you.
- Don't get agitated or impatient, or make disparaging remarks to another leader or child about the child with Down's Syndrome.
- Use easily understood examples to help explain things and try to avoid abstract discussions.
- If possible in your group setting, and if leader numbers allow, try to provide one-to-one support for the child, or use another child/young person as a 'buddy'.





- Keep things simple, consistent and use repetition where necessary.

Further information:

The Down's Syndrome Association
Mencap

www.downs-syndrome.org.uk
www.mencap.org/downs-syndrome

'Invited to Belong' has been developed in partnership between Urban Saints and Youthscape.



Youthscape

www.urbansaints.org/invitedtobelong