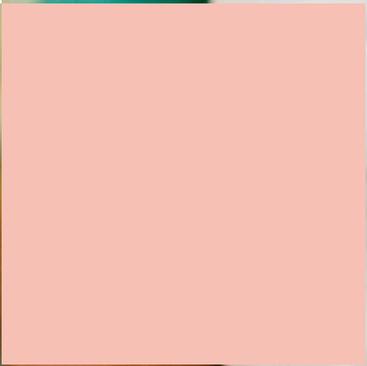


Down's Syndrome

What you
need to know

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Approximately two children with Down's Syndrome are born in the UK every day.

Around 1 in 1000 babies will have Down's Syndrome, which is caused by the presence of an extra chromosome in the child's cells.

All young people with Down's Syndrome will have a varying degree of learning disability.

Both 'Down Syndrome' and Down's Syndrome' are commonly used.



Key Issues



- Difficulties understanding, learning and remembering new things.
- Problems generalising 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 young person.

Support Strategies For Your Group

- Be patient; give young people with Down's Syndrome's plenty of time.
- Remember that a young person with learning disability might use other forms of communication such as Makaton or Sign-a-long.
- Never make the assumption that the young person cannot understand you.
- Don't get agitated or impatient, or make disparaging remarks to another leader or young person about the young person 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 young person, 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 - downs-syndrome.org.uk

Mencap - mencap.org,

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**This resource is just
one of the many
ways we're here to
walk with you!**

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training and resources to
equip you in discipling
young people.

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This resource has been adapted from our *Invited to Belong Team Training Kit*.

If you're interested in helping your team become more aware and welcoming of young people with additional needs, you can explore our *Invited to Belong Team Training Kit* at **urbansaints.org/resources**.

The original content of this resource was created in partnership with **Youthscape** as part of the *Invited to Belong* resource.