



Working Hand In Hand

Topics in Down Syndrome Education for School Teachers,
Staff and Administration – Back to School Fall 2018

October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Celebrate your students with Down syndrome! Check out these [Facts about Down syndrome](#).



in partnership with

DOWN SYNDROME AFFILIATES IN ACTION

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Down Syndrome Association of the Valley is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization which serves individuals with Down syndrome throughout eastern Ohio and western

Pennsylvania. Established in 2007, DSAV is committed to providing support, resources, advocacy, education and opportunity to individuals with Down syndrome, their families and our communities throughout the region.

MORE ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

There are many books available to help professionals and parents learn more about individuals with Down syndrome. From practical skills, education and memoirs, to books explaining Down syndrome to classmates, there are [plenty of resources](#) for every subject.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The IEP is chocked full of information but many parents and educators have found that a short summary about a student with Down syndrome (motivations, challenges, activities, strengths, long-range goals) is very helpful. Develop a handy [one-pager](#) for your student or use this more [detailed form](#). Both can be used to share information on a child with the entire team.

INCLUSION

Use these 12 [strategies to engage students](#) who may be working below grade level in general education classes. Students with Down syndrome need to be participating to the maximum extent possible (and with appropriate supports) in the classroom lessons and activities. However, sometimes the concepts of the lesson may not be at the learning level of the student - particularly if the student is on a modified program.

Technology can be used to enhance the many different learning styles and levels in the classroom. Use [this list of apps](#) for ideas in reading, writing, math, and supporting all learners with Universal Design for Learning.

[Teen with Down syndrome](#) wins inclusion case in Federal Court. The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the school district violated the student's right to a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment and the district has to pay the family for the cost of the private education. The full text of the decision is [here](#).



EDUCATION STRATEGIES

Communication

Is it apraxia or TMT? Many children with Down syndrome have communication challenges and often may be diagnosed with apraxia.

Innovative educator and Mom of an adult with Down syndrome, offers this [new perspective on TMT and apraxia](#) and ways to encourage better speech. [Natalie Hale](#) also supports individuals with Down syndrome to improve their reading skills and offers plenty of resources on her website.

Behavior

The word “behavior” in and of itself makes us categorize “good vs bad”. Instead, think of it as “actions” or even better “communicative actions”. What is your student telling you through their actions and could it be sensory issues? Watch this video – [“When kids don’t act the way they are supposed to”](#)

Dating and Down syndrome

Educators and parents play a role in helping youth and adults with Down syndrome develop the foundations of healthy relationships. Educator, Terri Couwenhoven shares [three key tips](#) for approaching the subject of dating and relationships. Terri is also the author of several books teaching about puberty and sexuality in individuals with Down syndrome and offers various workshops on these subjects.

TRANSITION

Congress recently passed a bill that will reauthorize and improve the [Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act](#). State and local entities are encouraged to [use funds](#) to increase access to and completion of career and technical education programs for special populations, which includes students with disabilities. Funds can also be used to prepare and support teachers and support personnel to provide accommodations for students with disabilities in technical education programs.

Both the IDEA and the Rehabilitation Act make clear that transition services to post-secondary employment and education require a coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability within an outcome-oriented process. The Department of Education developed this [transition guide](#) to assist educators and families in developing and pursuing their goals for adult life. [Where do we start?](#) is a brief explanation of the transition process.

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU!

A new movie coming to a theater near you – [Intelligent Lives](#) stars three pioneering young American adults with intellectual disabilities who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college, and the workforce. The film shatters stereotypes on what it means to be intelligent and opens new doors to more inclusive education and employment. [Find a screening near you.](#)