

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

***The Learning Profile of Pupils with Down’s syndrome***

* ***difference, not just delay.***
* Pupils with Down’s syndrome are **not** just developmentally delayed – they have a specific learning profile with implications for differentiation
* Pupils with Down’s syndrome are **GOOD** **VISUAL** learners & **POOR** **AUDITORY** learners - learning from ,listening is VERY hard for them.
* Differentiation must be child-centred & VISUAL, as practical as possible and should use familiar & meaningful language.
* Factors in the child’s learning profile have physical or/and cognitive implications.
* These are **also** seen in other pupils with SEN.

# ***Factors that Facilitate Learning***

* Ability and desire to learn from peers - to interact, imitate & take their cue from them.
* Despite speech & language problems - usually keen communicators.
* Strong visual awareness & visual learning skills.
* Ability to learn & use sign, gesture & visual support.
* Ability to read & use the written word.
* Sense of humour & sociability.

# ***Factors that may inhibit learning***

(NB: Not **all** children with Down’s syndrome will have **all** of the following factors but they will often have some of these)

* Delayed Motor skills - Fine & Gross
* Auditory and visual impairment
* Speech and Language delay
* Short Term Auditory Memory deficit
* Shorter concentration span
* Difficulties with consolidation & retention
* Generalisation, thinking & reasoning difficulties
* Sequential difficulties
* Avoidance tactics.