

Support communication using recommended approaches

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Key areas to support' from the Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Includes:

Use clear, concise language

Teach conversation skills

Utilise role play across the curriculum

Useful resources

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support communication using recommended approaches](#)

Date

14 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-communication-using-recommended-approaches

Use clear, concise language

Consider your use of language. Support important information and instructions with pictures, objects and gestures.

- ✓ Use fewer words.
- ✓ Slow down your rate of speaking.
- ✓ Speak clearly and directly to students, taking care over similarly-sounding words such as “trees” and “cheese”.
- ✓ Give students more time to process information.
- ✓ Explore a range of visual communication tools to support classroom routines and prepare for transitions.
- ✓ Use students’ names to gain attention before giving an instruction or asking a question.
- ✓ Display new vocabulary on a whiteboard or chart.

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support communication using recommended approaches](#)

Date

14 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-communication-using-recommended-approaches

Teach conversation skills

Supporting students with Down syndrome to be good conversation partners.



Video hosted on Youtube <http://youtu.be/mBhiEO4YGZk>

No captions or transcript

Source:

[Will Schermerhorn \(US\)](#)

<https://youtu.be/mBhiEO4YGZk>

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support communication using recommended approaches](#)

Date

14 June 2026

Link

[inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-communication-using-recommended-approaches](https://www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-communication-using-recommended-approaches)

Utilise role play across the curriculum



Source:

[Kathy Cassidy](#)

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/kathycassidy57/>

[View full image \(1.7 MB\)](#)

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support communication using recommended approaches](#)

Date

14 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/down-syndrome-and-learning/support-communication-using-recommended-approaches

Useful resources



Primary education support pack

Ten units providing teaching strategies for different curriculum areas, learning skills and social skills.

Publisher: Down's Syndrome Association

[Visit website](#)



Resource hub

Information guides and resources from Down Syndrome Australia that can help to support parents, learners and educators.

Publisher: Down Syndrome Australia

[Visit website](#)

This information was downloaded/printed from the Ministry of Education's website "Inclusive Education". Except where otherwise noted it is Crown Copyright 2018.

Information on the Inclusive Education website is regularly updated so we recommend you check the website version of this information to ensure it remains current.