

Support social interaction

Approaches and activities that support interaction between peers.

- ✓ Explain Down syndrome to your students. Discuss this with the student's parents and family beforehand. Parents of a child with Down syndrome may want to talk to their child's class.
- ✓ Partner your student with Down syndrome with other students for group activities. Aides or teachers can help, but shouldn't act as partners.
- ✓ Give students opportunities to identify their strengths.
- ✓ Encourage students to feel less stressed in social situations by using warmth, patience and good humour when you talk with them.
- ✓ Encourage students to share their interests. For example, create a class bulletin board featuring the school-based and out-of-school interests of students.
- ✓ Create an environment where students can see one another clearly, identify social cues and practise and learn taking turns.

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