

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Down syndrome and learning](#)

Strategy: [Key areas to support](#)

Suggestion: [Support literacy and numeracy using recommended approaches](#)

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14 June 2026

Link

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

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## Use recommended reading activities

Examples of recommended activities to support reading for students with Down syndrome.

- ✓ Make short phrases of 2–3 words using previously-learned words. Select words that will have high interest for the student.
- ✓ Create sentence strips or Velcro-backed cards. Students can copy a sentence structure to make their own sentences in response to an image.
- ✓ Create books with students based on the sight words and sentences they are learning. Give students frequent opportunities to read them.
- ✓ Play games using sight words; practise in relevant settings.
- ✓ Emphasise and provide practice reading connecting words – for example, “and”, “or” and “but”.
- ✓ Use repetitive sentence patterns to help match words to pictures, sequence, predict and expand on their sight words – for example, “I like ...”.

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