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## GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

### Basic Facts for Leaders

# Down Syndrome



## GENERAL FEATURES

- Delayed motor skills – fine and gross
- Auditory and visual impairment
- Speech and language impairment
- Poor auditory memory
- Limited concentration span
- Difficulties with thinking, reasoning making links from one activity to another
- Sequencing difficulties
- 40-50% will have heart problems
- Respiratory problems, coughs & colds

Areas of the BB programme which would present difficulty for the child or young person

## ANCHORS

- Games (gross motor skills & memory)
- Craft (fine motor skills & memory)
- Story (concentration)

## JUNIOR SECTION

- Physical Training (Gross motor skills and memory)
- Badge Classes (Concentration, thinking and reasoning)
- Group Work – (Language difficulties, auditory memory)

## COMPANY SECTION

- Physical Training (gross motor skills and memory)
- Badge Work (reasoning skills, concentration span)

## USEFUL STRATEGIES

- Make sure rules and routines are explicitly explained
- Speak directly to the pupil and reinforce your message with:
  - Facial expression
  - Pictures
  - Concrete materials
- Give the child or young person time to process language
- Listen carefully – your ear will adjust to his speech patterns
- Think about why inappropriate behaviour has occurred i.e.
  - Did the pupil understand the task?
  - Is the task too hard or too easy
  - Are the materials appropriate?
  - Is the task too long?
- Use simple and familiar language

***Please note these are general strategies. Each child or young person is unique. It is therefore important to speak to their parent(s) to gain individual relevant information***

## DOWN'S SYNDROME - THE FACTS

- Down syndrome is a genetic disorder and occurs when a baby is born with an additional chromosome
- In Ireland, it is estimated that about one baby born in every 600 has Down Syndrome
- Children with Down Syndrome have a specific learning profile with characteristic strengths and weaknesses

## USEFUL WEBSITES

Down Syndrome Ireland [www.downsyndrome.ie](http://www.downsyndrome.ie)

Disability Advice Network [www.boysbrigade.ie/dan](http://www.boysbrigade.ie/dan)