



# Working Hand in Hand

Topics in Down Syndrome Education for School Teachers,  
Staff and Administration



in partnership with

**DOWN SYNDROME  
AFFILIATES IN ACTION**

## DS ACT PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

June 19 Advocacy  
Avengers Meeting

July 13 14 Moms' Retreat

July 20 Summer Picnic,  
Camp Harkness

August Advocacy  
Avengers

August 18 Summer Picnic  
Fairfield County

September 8 Buddy Walk,  
New Britain Bees Stadium

October 19 Annual  
Convention, Waters' Edge  
Resort, Westbrook

[www.mydsact.org](http://www.mydsact.org)

## INCLUSION

What does it look like when schools transition to more inclusive and rigorous education for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities? In this [Impact issue](#) (online newsletter) inclusive K-8 education is viewed from a variety of perspectives – researchers, classroom teachers, education administrators, students with and without disabilities, and families. They explore inclusion from the classroom to the school-wide community and beyond.

Change can happen from the top down to the classroom, [principals](#) can effectively lead inclusive schools. In the classroom, teachers are offering different ways for students to show what they have learned and the creation of an [e-portfolio](#) can be a source to show progress of the student work from year to year.

Check out this [online Modified Lessons binder](#) which contains lesson ideas for modifying curriculum for students with intellectual disabilities. New content is being added daily so this will be a bookmark to keep for the future!

## DEVELOPMENT/LEARNING

People with Down syndrome never stop learning as concluded in [a recent study](#) of 2,600 families in the U.S. and Netherlands. The data which compiled major milestones such as walking, talking and living independently will help clinicians know when children may be falling behind their peers with Down syndrome and, when necessary, refer parents to additional supports, resources, and therapies.

[TouchMath](#) offers a different, more accessible way to learn math which is also evidence-based. The touch points provide a visual support for students with Down syndrome to learn addition, subtraction and multiplication.



Please share our contact information with your students' families, and don't hesitate to contact us if you need support or information yourself!

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## BEHAVIOR

A popular behavior support resource in the Down syndrome community is Dr. David Stein's "[Supporting Positive Behavior in Children and Teens with Down Syndrome: The Respond but Don't React Method](#)" which uses proven strategies to help parents and educators of children and teens with Down syndrome navigate some of the unique challenges they face. This [infographic](#) provides quick tips for parents to identify the factors that influence their child's behavior and possible responses that encourage positive outcomes. Another summary of these behavior techniques is in this [quick guide](#), perfect for educators and parents!

## HOME COMMUNICATION

Parent-school communication is critical for helping a student with Down syndrome succeed. Parents are interested in receiving information related to academic instruction, homework, examples of school work, daily schedule, independent skills and any behavior concerns. Find examples of home/school [communication systems](#) that work for your team and make sure to include a method to communicate with general and special education teachers, aides, therapists, administration and other parents. Communication is key to developing a sense of belonging.

## DOWN SYNDROME 101

"[Down syndrome 101](#)" is an easy-to-follow video explaining the basics of Down syndrome. This educational video is perfect for new and expectant parents, and also great for use in school classrooms.

## TRANSITION

Transition planning is an outcome-oriented process that promotes the movement from school to post-school activities. The key to this process is to look at the day after graduation and work backward. This [guide](#) shows the skill areas to consider in self-determination, employment, independent living and post-secondary education and training that can guide the development of Transition Plans for students with Down syndrome.

## NDSC ANNUAL CONVENTION

Each year, thousands of people from across the globe attend the [National Down Syndrome Congress Annual Convention](#). This "giant family reunion" will be held in Pittsburgh June 27-30, 2019. The conference is designed for parents and families, self-advocates and professionals. Online recordings are also available.