**Ten Top Tips for pupils with Down Syndrome**

1. Pupils with Down Syndrome need to be supported in becoming as independent as possible and fully integrated with their peers. Avoid the pupil spending long periods of time outside of the classroom working 1:1 with an adult
2. They need to work and play with and alongside good role models for the development of their language and social skills as learning through imitation is an area of strength.
3. To have just as high expectations of the pupil’s behaviour as you would for other pupils, clear boundaries and a consistent approach by all staff.
4. Visual memory skills will be much stronger than auditory memory it is therefore very important that the pupil has a visual timetable and visual prompts to accompany teaching and instruction.
5. To follow an individual programme to develop their speech and language skills as directed through a Speech and Language Therapist and supplemented with additional activities from Talking Partners and Elklan programmes.
6. Learning to read is not only important in itself but also in improving language development. Pupils should be taught through a whole word ‘look and say’ approach rather than a phonic approach. Relate to personal experiences through making books of photographs with the pupil.
7. To develop numeracy skills through practical and play activities and the use of Numicon which is visual/ multisensory resource.
8. In most cases the pupil will struggle to develop fine motor skills and effective pencil control, they may be helped by following a programme such as Clever Fingers. They should have access to a computer with a large keyboard and mouse (available from Inclusive Technology) to begin to develop key boards skills to provide an alternative means of recording. Clicker and Widgit are useful resources to help with developing language, reading and writing skills.
9. To strengthen links between what the pupil does at home and school through the use of a diary that goes home daily. This can enable areas of interest and experiences to be used and developed in school and helps keep parents informed of the pupil’s day in school.
10. The local Down Syndrome Training and Support Service Ltd run a wide range of training courses for teachers and teaching assistants working with pupils with Down Syndrome birth – 16yrs. Details can be found at office@downsyndromebradford.co.uk