

## **Down Syndrome**

According to a healthline, a down syndrome is a condition where in when a child is born there is an error in developing its cells division that leads an extra chromosome 21. This condition may affect a child's cognitive ability and physical growth that may lead to health problems. They also stated that there is a possibility that a person with down syndrome may have Alzheimer's Disease and an epilepsy.

### **Teaching Strategies:**

- They are visual learners.
- They understand a lot more than they can say.
- They are able to follow classroom rules and routines.
- They need help to remember instructions – use shorter phrases or visual clues.
- Teacher's expectations of behavior, attitude and ability should be high.
- Children with Down syndrome can learn. However, we need to make compromises so that their educational needs can be met in the classroom. Since they are visual learners, teaching reading to students with Down syndrome should be characterized by a strong emphasis on visual learning. Visual demonstrations, pictures and illustrations can also be successfully used to assist in providing effective instruction in other subject areas of the curriculum. Lessons in phonics should be included in the curriculum for the learner with Down syndrome.

### **Cause:**

- Flattened face
- Small head
- Short neck
- Protruding tongue
- Upward slanting eye lids (palpebral fissures)
- Unusually shaped or small ears
- Poor muscle tone
- Broad, short hands with a single crease in the palm
- Relatively short fingers and small hands and feet
- Excessive flexibility
- Tiny white spots on the colored part (iris) of the eye called Brushfield's spots
- Short height

### **Symptoms:**

- Trisomy 21. About 95 percent of the time, Down syndrome is caused by trisomy 21 — the person has three copies of chromosome 21, instead of the usual two copies, in all cells. This is caused by abnormal cell division during the development of the sperm cell or the egg cell.
- Mosaic Down syndrome. In this rare form of Down syndrome, a person has only some cells with an extra copy of chromosome 21. This mosaic of normal and abnormal cells is caused by abnormal cell division after fertilization.
- Translocation Down syndrome. Down syndrome can also occur when a portion of chromosome 21 becomes attached (translocated) onto another chromosome, before or at conception. These children have the usual two copies of chromosome 21, but they also have additional genetic material from chromosome 21 attached to another chromosome.