

TEN THINGS TEACHERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME

1. Know the definition. People with Down syndrome have 47 chromosomes instead of 46 in each cell. The extra material causes some developmental delays and medical concerns.
2. Use people first language. Put the person before the disability in speech. (A child with Down syndrome, not the Down syndrome girl.) The correct term is Down syndrome. Not Down's syndrome. A child does not have Downs.
3. Treat your student with Down syndrome like everyone else.
4. Talk to your students about Down syndrome. Go to gillianmarchenko.com for ideas. Include your student in a presentation and invite the parent to help!
5. Ask about health and safety. Review medical records. Talk to the parents. Are there any constraints for recess or gym? Hazards? Concerns?
6. Identify how the child learns. A children with Down syndrome **LEARNS!** Modify the classwork if needed. Not sure how/what to do? **RESEARCH.** Ask the parents. Check with special education teachers.
7. Partner with the parents. Don't wait for an IEP meeting. Send a daily communication journal home in the child's backpack.
8. Read your student's IEP often. Look to incorporate goals in the everyday life of the class.
9. Assume success. Model tasks or pair him up with a peer buddy. Friends are a huge motivator for anyone!
10. Create a great environment for your student. Be positive and encouraging!

