

The Learning Profile of Pupils with Down's syndrome **- *difference not just delay.***

- Pupils **not** just developmentally delayed – they have a specific learning profile with implications for differentiation
- Pupils with DS are **GOOD VISUAL** learners & **POOR AUDITORY** learners - learning from listening is VERY hard for them.
- Differentiation must be child-centred & VISUAL, as practical as possible & use familiar & meaningful language.
- Factors in learning profile have physical or/and cognitive implications.
- Factors **also** seen in other pupils with SEN.

Factors that Facilitate Learning

- ❑ Ability and desire to learn from peers - to interact, imitate & take their cue from them.
- ❑ Despite speech & language problems -usually keen communicators.
- ❑ Strong visual awareness & visual learning skills.
- ❑ Ability to learn & use sign, gesture & visual support.
- ❑ Ability to read & use the written word.
- ❑ Sense of humour

Factors that may inhibit learning

Not **all** children with DS will have **all** of the following factors.

- Delayed Motor skills - Fine & Gross
- Auditory and visual impairment
- Speech and Language delay
- Short Term Auditory Memory deficit
- Shorter concentration span
- Difficulties with consolidation & retention
- Generalisation, thinking & reasoning difficulties
- Sequential difficulties
- Avoidance tactics.