

QUICK GUIDE:

School Administrators



When teaching a student with Down syndrome, attitude is the most critical factor related to the success of that student. If you think a student will succeed, they will. When a student is treated like a valued learner, they learn.

Creating a school that is truly inclusive goes beyond the classroom, it requires a significant shift in the school community culture that is continually encouraged, strengthened and maintained by school administration, teachers, staff and the students of the school. This quick guide resource was developed to help the school administration staff in their important roles of promoting and helping students to learn together in the school community.

Suggestions for School Administrators:

- Inclusion starts from the top down. When school administrators believe and embrace the principle of learning together and work to ensure that teachers, school staff, students and families are committed to inclusive education, the school community becomes a place where students of all abilities learn and belong.
- Establish and support a school community that fosters belonging for ALL students. Build a welcoming, thoughtful, respectful, and safe learning environment that offers a sense of community for all students and their families.
- Value all students and set high expectations for all students in your school. Help ensure students succeed by offering learning materials and experiences that are meaningful and relevant for every student and learning level.
- All students can learn and achieve when they are given the opportunities, time, and support they need to succeed. Acknowledge the strengths, needs, interests, and learning preferences of the students. Some students will need additional specialized supports while, some will need minimal supports.

- Ensure that teachers and school staff have professional development opportunities, access to consultations and support from specialists to help them meet the diverse needs of all students. Help school staff by providing opportunities to collaborate, share ideas and resources so they can learn and support each other.
- Ensure that supports, interventions and school wide policies are in place to help address behaviours and issues like bullying.
- Engage parents and educators. Encourage them to collaborate when planning and implementing the student's school experiences and individualized plans. Create opportunities for parents to communicate with school administrators to help inform decision making.



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