

QUICK GUIDE:

School Support Staff



It takes a village...

School support staff can range from lunch room supervisors to custodians, guidance counsellors, bus drivers, nurses, resource officers, office staff, classroom aides, librarians, and more. They all have unique and critical roles in helping students in the school community reach their potential. Students with Down syndrome can connect with school support staff on many different occasions and these are all opportunities that can help foster a positive, trusting, and caring learning environment.

- Teachers are a great resource. Teachers get to know their students well throughout the school year; they might know what they like or dislike, what calms them down or what triggers the student. If you are working with the student with Down syndrome, ask the teacher questions. Work as a team to problem solve, discuss behavioral concerns and celebrate the big and small victories!
- Help students with Down syndrome feel safe and healthy in their school community. All students need to feel like they are part of a safe school environments to succeed. Whether you are the school nurse helping the student deal with tummy troubles or the bus driver who greets the student by name every morning or the librarian who knows the student's favorite books—this is all part of helping the student feel safe and that they belong to the school community.

- School support staff can help keep schools running smoothly. The school environment is a busy place and requires school support staff to ensure all students get what they need on a daily basis. From lunchroom assistants helping with their snack containers to the guidance counsellor connecting with the student on a regular basis, all of these critical roles help the school run smoothly and the student with Down syndrome feel supported.
- Seek out professional development and learning opportunities. Look for opportunities to develop skills you might need to help your school community embrace inclusive education and supporting students as they learn together.



Check out our full resource for more info:

