



Inclusive education for children with Down syndrome

Best practice for
supporting children
with Down syndrome





Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country
Diversity Statement



Introductions

Project team



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Overview

- Purpose of today's webinar
- Learning objectives
 - Inclusion and the law
 - Best practice
 - Classroom strategies
 - Reasonable adjustments
 - Respectful classroom cultures
 - Working with families
 - Q&A



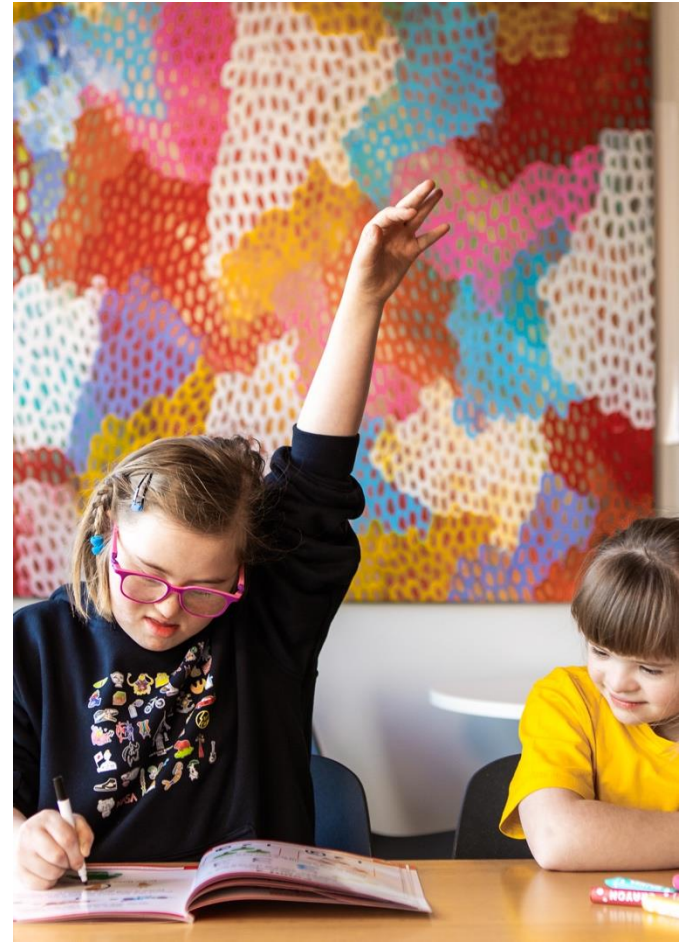
Inclusion and the law

- Rights of people with disabilities
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) Article 24.



Inclusion is good for everyone!

- How does inclusion reduce stigma?
- How is inclusion good for everyone?
- Inclusion improves learning outcomes for everyone.





What does social inclusion look like in an education setting?

- **Include everyone in all activities**

Make sure all students can join in games, lessons, and events. No one should be left out.

- **Work to everyone's strengths**

Find what each student is good at and encourage them use those skills in class.

- **Ask what students want to achieve**

Talk to students about their goals. Help them reach those goals step by step by providing constructive support.

- **Check if the school can keep students safe**

Make sure the school has the right support and safety plans for all students.



Best practice

What does best practice look like in the classroom?





Classroom strategies to support learning

Evidence-based practices to support learners with Down syndrome.



Examples of supports

- Visual support
- Task structuring
- Executive function supports





Examples of supports

Posture & Ergonomic Adjustments for Learners with Low Muscle Tone

Key Strategies:



Stable Seating

Use contoured chairs with pelvic belts or lap straps to prevent sliding and support upright posture



Trunk Seating

Add lateral cushions and adjustable headrests for midline alignment



Foot Positioning

Ensure feet are flat on the floor or footrests for proper weight distribution



Adaptive Tools

Provide thicker grips for pencils and utensils to reduce strain



Dynamic Seating

Incorporate wobble chairs or flexible stools to encourage micro-movements and



Collaborate with OT

Tailor supports to individual needs and monitor fatigue with regular posture breaks



Reasonable adjustments



What to do when things aren't working

- Recognising problems and what might be causing these problems.
- How do we make sure that educators have the right training to make classrooms inclusive?
- How we can change things for the better?

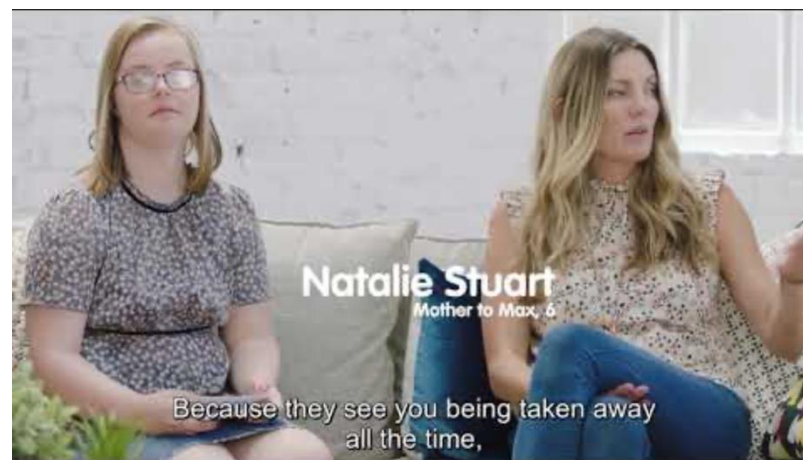


Building a respectful classroom culture



Young students with Down syndrome share their experiences of what inclusion really means in the classroom.

Young adults with Down syndrome and their parents share their experiences of life at school.





Working with families and support teams



Down Syndrome
Australia



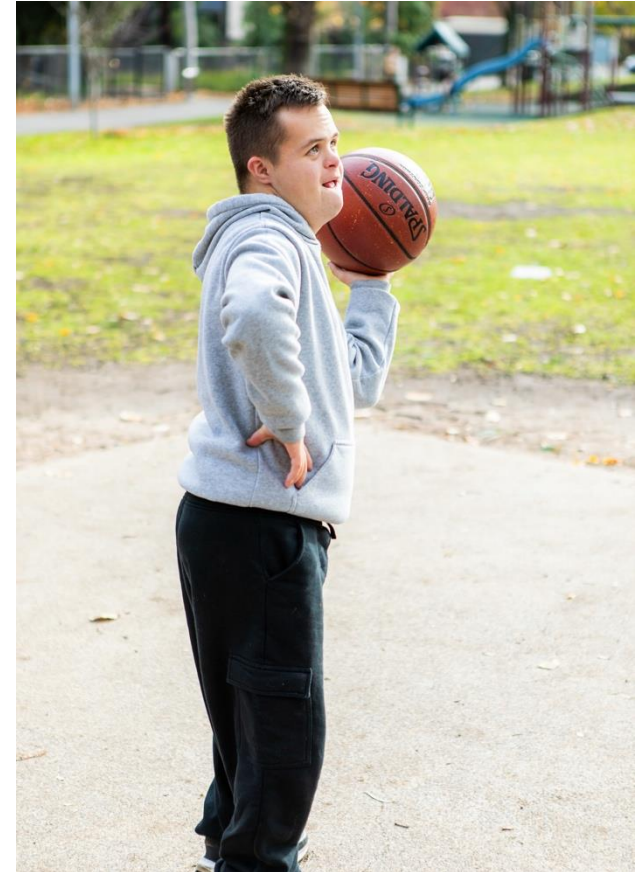
Q&A discussion

Do you have any questions?



Key resources from today

- Down Syndrome Australia's Education Toolkit
- [Down Syndrome Australia's Education Toolkit](#)
- Reasonable Adjustments Planning template
- This slide deck.







Thank you!

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