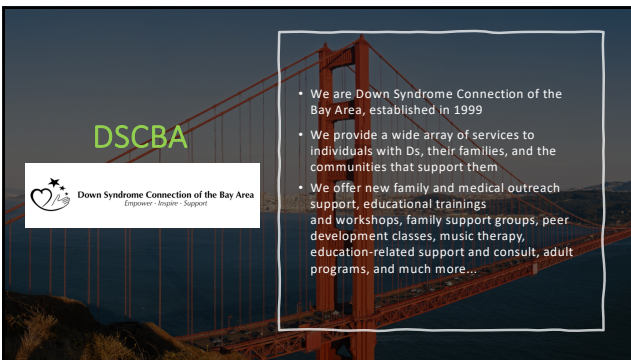




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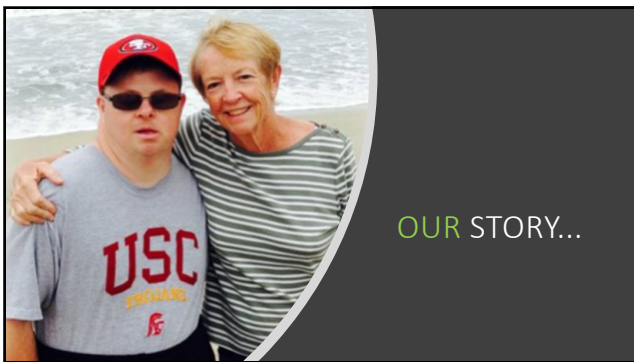
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DSEA
Down Syndrome Education Alliance


- Established in 2010
- Partnership with approximately 50 Bay Area Schools
- Consultation services for members and educators
- Ongoing workshops for families, educators and specialists
- IEP support for families and school teams
- Communications Readiness Program (CRP)
- Lending library (evidence-based materials, AT/AAC supports)
- Ability Awareness presentations
- Professional development trainings
- And much more...

4



OUR STORY...

5



Once upon a time in 2010...

There were two mothers and a passionate leader who wanted students with Ds to have opportunities for an equitable education.

They recognized there was a great need to help educators better understand all the wonderful strengths and abilities students with Ds had to offer, as well as effective strategies to support common challenges.

They sought out help and collaborated with Amy Allison, VP at DSGGKC, who shared her experience and knowledge

They started small and dreamed big...

6

SINCE THEN...

- We have partnered with dozens of school districts
- We have provided direct support to hundreds of members and their families
- We have educated thousands of students, their teachers, paraprofessionals, specialists, and other staff
- We have become a premier resource for those seeking education, training, and support for students with Down syndrome

7

ROAD TO SUCCESS

- Identify and understand the needs of YOUR members and YOUR community
- Identify staff or recruit someone to spearhead research and development
- Lean on other organizations for support – look for "train the trainer" opportunities. No need to re-invent the wheel!
- Determine available funds or a plan to acquire funding (e.g. local orgs, grants)
- Develop an action plan
- Identify points of contact (e.g. School Principals, Inclusion Specialists, SpEd Directors, etc.) and start reaching out.

8

KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY

- Each community is different. Lean on input from your members and work to understand facts about Special Education in your community. For example, do most of your members attend school in a special education classroom setting? Are there members who are partially or fully included? Do you receive many calls or emails about IEPs, IDEA, inclusion, teaching/learning strategies, or alternative approaches for learners with Ds?
- Understand your community's general attitude about diversity and inclusion.
- A successful partnership starts with the mutual belief that every student has a right to and deserves a meaningful and fulfilling education.

9

STRATEGIES

- Member outreach – conduct interviews or create a survey for families with school-aged children to gather more data about current placement, common questions and concerns about education, and school "climate"
- Research local districts online and explore any information pertaining to Special Education. Do they even mention inclusion? That's a good indicator (wink, wink)
- Engage with local schools and/or educators to better understand their perspective.

10

Special Education Services

San Francisco Unified School District



SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

- Acronyms & Glossary of Terms
- Announcements, Events Calendar and News
- Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC)
- Dispute Resolution Options
- Distance Learning & Covid 19 Resources for Special Education

Inclusive Practices

To help every child succeed, the SFUSD Board of Education established policies to ensure the use of effective practices to support students receiving special education services.

Inclusive education is not a separate education initiative; rather it is a basic characteristic of school organizing to improve student performance. It recognizes that students requiring special education services are, first and foremost, general education students who require additional services and support to succeed in school.

11

DETERMINE THE WHO

- Requires (at least) a dedicated staff member to research, plan, and put ideas into action
- Budget considerations
- Look at current staff and determine if there is a good fit for the position
- Recruit someone for the position (current members/parents with a background in education, teachers looking for part-time work, grad students, etc.)
- Requires a commitment to high-level planning and strategizing - generally not a good fit for volunteer or an all-volunteer org.

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DETERMINE THE WHAT



Direct services you will provide based on community needs and current "bandwidth" of your organization



Does your org have an online presence? What education-related content could you add to your website (e.g. education law, IEP info, inclusion info, links to helpful educational resources, etc.)?

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EXAMPLES

- Direct consult for members and professionals
- Development of an education-related website page
- Road to Success (formally known as "DS 101"): A comprehensive training for professionals working with students with Ds (partnered with Pacific University to offer ECUs)
- Ongoing workshops about IEPs, accommodations & modifications, UDL, effective teaching strategies, evidence-based approaches for reading, writing, and math, communication supports, behavior supports, school readiness, and more...
- Ability Awareness presentations for "typical" students
- Lending Library: Evidence-based and helpful materials available to "check-out" at no cost
- AAC library
- CRP: A communications and school readiness program
- District-wide Professional Development trainings
- Direct consult and on-site training for educators, specialists, and paraprofessionals
- Corporate and community-based trainings (Ability Awareness for adults/professionals)

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Quick Links

NEWS

Select Language

Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area
Empower - Inspire - Support

Donate

About | Programs | Adults | Medical Outreach | Education | Get Involved | Resources | Events | Español | Search

DSEA

Education

• DSEA

DSEA Resources

Ability Awareness

Down Syndrome Educational Alliance

The Down Syndrome Education Alliance strives to provide information, training, resources and supports by partnering with Bay Area educators who work with students with Down syndrome. We offer information regarding the general learning profile of individuals with Down syndrome and research-based best practices for educating them. The Alliance offers direct training, consultation, ability awareness presentations, and access to our curriculum, AAC and print libraries.

Want to learn more about the DSEA? Please see our brochure here.

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Low-Tech Library

1. Find a board and print! Select the pdf file, download it to your device and print.
 2. Customize. Did you find a board that will work but needs a little personalization such as pictures, names, etc.? Customization of a board can be requested by submitting this form:

Personalize YOUR BOARD
SUBMIT FORM HERE

Inventory

For All Communication Boards

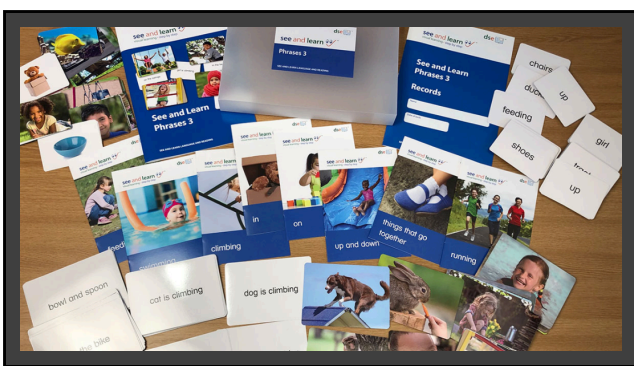
Board Name	Board Description	View Board	Inventory	Links
ABCs	Board with letters and pictures	View Board	Inventory	Links
123s	Board with numbers and pictures	View Board	Inventory	Links
Colors	Board with color names and swatches	View Board	Inventory	Links
Shapes	Board with shape names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Days of the Week	Board with day names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Months of the Year	Board with month names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Animals	Board with animal names and pictures	View Board	Inventory	Links
Vegetables	Board with vegetable names and pictures	View Board	Inventory	Links
Fruits	Board with fruit names and pictures	View Board	Inventory	Links
Weather	Board with weather names and icons	View Board	Inventory	Links
Jobs	Board with job names and icons	View Board	Inventory	Links
Transportation	Board with vehicle names and pictures	View Board	Inventory	Links
Activities	Board with activity names and icons	View Board	Inventory	Links
Emotions	Board with emotion names and faces	View Board	Inventory	Links
Locations	Board with location names and icons	View Board	Inventory	Links
Time	Board with time-related words and icons	View Board	Inventory	Links
Body Parts	Board with body part names and pictures	View Board	Inventory	Links
Prepositions	Board with preposition names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Verbs	Board with verb names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Nouns	Board with noun names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Adjectives	Board with adjective names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Adverbs	Board with adverb names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Conjunctions	Board with conjunction names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Interjections	Board with interjection names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Articles	Board with article names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Pronouns	Board with pronoun names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Prepositions	Board with preposition names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
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Adverbs	Board with adverb names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Conjunctions	Board with conjunction names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Interjections	Board with interjection names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Articles	Board with article names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links
Pronouns	Board with pronoun names and illustrations	View Board	Inventory	Links

Explore our inventory → [View All Boards](#)

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Accommodations & Modifications in the General Ed Setting for Students with Down Syndrome

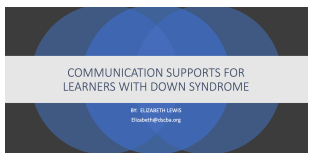
presented by:
Elizabeth Lewis, Education Director
Elizabeth@dsca.org
and
Laurie Hawley, Education Support Manager
Laurie@dsca.org



The Road to Success for Your Students with Down Syndrome

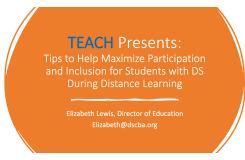
Elizabeth Lewis, Director of Education
Elizabeth@dsca.org





COMMUNICATION SUPPORTS FOR LEARNERS WITH DOWN SYNDROME


By Elizabeth Lewis
Elizabeth@dsca.org



TEACH Presents:
Tips to Help Maximize Participation and Inclusion for Students with DS During Distance Learning

Elizabeth Lewis, Director of Education
Elizabeth@dsca.org

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Will's Story

This is Will, he is a boy who loves to play, explore, and learn just like you. He has spending time with his friends and family just like you. He is shy, smart, creative, and talented, just like you. There is just one thing that makes Will a little different than you... Will has Down Syndrome. It's okay if you don't know what that is... You will understand more after you read this book!

How Does Down Syndrome Affect Will?

Down syndrome makes some things harder to learn or do. Sometimes it affects your body and mind. Learning to talk and write is a little harder for Will, but he is a good reader, loves to sing and dance, and is great at sports.

Can you think of things that you are really good at and things that are a bit harder for you to learn or do?

Muscle Tone

- Everyone with Down syndrome has low muscle tone. That means their muscles are longer, which make them loose and stretchy, like a rubber band.
- Will has to be even stronger and more coordinated to do the same thing as someone with typical muscle tone. Will's muscles aren't weak, they're just a little different.
- Low muscle tone also means Will is super flexible. If you've ever seen him in class, resting his head or stretching his body toward the ground, it doesn't mean he's bored, his body is probably just tired and needs a little break.



How Can You Help?


Be a good friend. Everybody needs friends, and it can be harder for Will with Down Syndrome to make friends. Include Will with students. Right now, we can't all gather together to go to birthday parties, or eat lunch together, but when it is safe to do these things again, remember to make Will:

In the meantime, say hi when you see Will go your Down syndrome, use his strengths, maybe take a minute just to say hi. Don't be like any other friend in your classroom. Will loves to make new friends and is a super fun kid.




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DETERMINE THE HOW



Ask for help! Consult with other organizations to help with developing your **WHAT**




Develop an outreach plan. Based on what you know about your member and community needs, how are you going to connect with your local schools/district(s)?



Consider funding. How are you going to get the money you need to support the **WHAT**?

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- Research is key – funding doesn't just fall into your lap!
- Be Prepared: Know your **WHO, WHAT, WHY,** and **HOW** and be prepared to put it all into action (only one year to use funds)
- Create a portfolio of current programs or services you provide that may be relevant to your funding requests
- Work with an experienced Grant writer!



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EXAMPLES

- Host an event (when it is safe to do so) to spread awareness and information, build rapport, and get a meaningful buy-in. Create a buzz!
- Create fliers/informative packets to send to schools/districts
- Send an email campaign and follow-up
- Offer members an opportunity for support via connection with school/education team
- Offer FREE services and PD opportunities (it's a win-win!)
- Commit to grant research... there are lots of education-based grants out there!
- Create a portfolio in advance (based on needs, current bandwidth, and resources) to pitch to potential donors.
- Spread the word through email campaigns, website, social media, and grassroots marketing efforts

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And finally... the **WHY**

- It's a "No Brainer!" **FREE** (or very low cost) services that improve student and educator outcome.
- Students & Teachers need our support more than ever!!
- **IMPACT.** You can make a life-long positive impact on students with Ds, paraprofessionals, educators, and specialists. You can foster systemic change.
- Be a **PREMIER** Resource. You are the local expert on Down syndrome, which makes you a local expert on best practices for educating individuals with disabilities.

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KEY BENEFITS

DISTRICTS / SCHOOLS

Schools and educators receive **FREE** access to individualized consult, training, and materials

Opportunities for professional development

Opportunity to model best practices in inclusion and diversity (this can lead to recognition!)

DONORS

Funding will provide schools, educators and students access to services, supports, and training that can make a measurable impact on student and teacher outcome.

DSEA directly benefits teachers and schools – "fills in the gaps"

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BENEFITS FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

- Development of strong partnerships in your community will make your reputation shine = more opportunities for growth and revenue
- Potential to become a premier resource in your community and beyond
- Potential to make a positive and long-lasting impact on students' lives
- Play a meaningful role in Special Education reform

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MAINTENANCE

Not a "one and done" scenario. Requires ongoing research, outreach, and flow of ideas.

Families, local organizations, and schools will hear about you and your scope of services will grow and be ever-evolving.

Funding needs may increase as you introduce new programs and services.

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ROADBLOCKS

- Not all communities, districts, schools, or educators believe in inclusive practices or value training.
- Schools and educators may ask, "What's in it for us?"
- Families may want or expect you to be an advocate. It's important to draw healthy boundaries, as we are allies to both families and educators.
- Attrition and turnover are REAL. It's difficult to keep up with an ever-rotating cast of leaders, specialists, educators, and paraprofessionals. Think "Groundhog Day."

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BENEFITS

- Individuals with Ds, their families, educators, and community leaders are inspired, empowered, and supported.
- Students who may have otherwise been pushed immediately into SpEd classroom settings have increased opportunities to be educated alongside typically developing peers.
- Typically developing peers have an opportunity to be educated alongside a peer with a disability.
- Teachers, school staff, and students gain a better understanding about Down syndrome and how to support someone with a disability.
- Your community becomes more aware, empathetic, and connected.

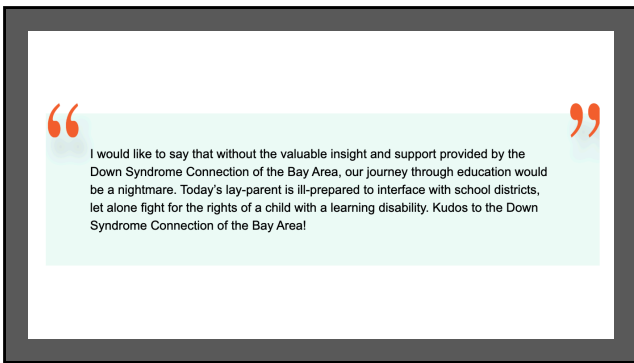
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SUCCESS

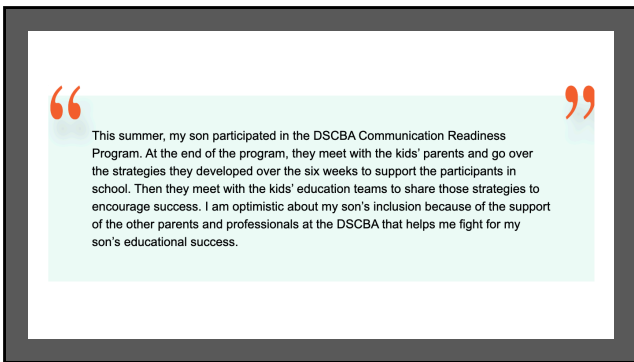
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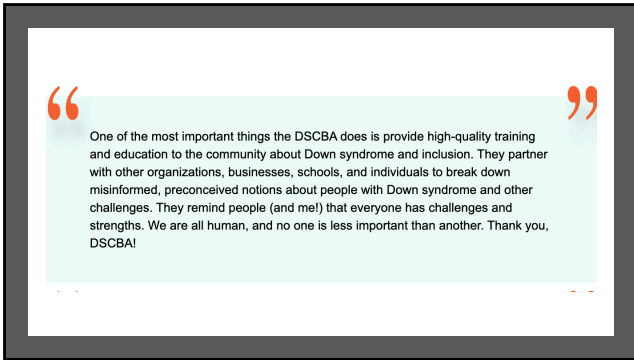
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