

Home Schooling a Child with Down Syndrome:

Later Preschool Resources

*Preschool level material would
be for Down Syndrome
children about ages 4-6+*

*Before choosing resources, know
where your child is in his skill
development. Then you will know what
skills he needs to work on next and be
better able to choose the resources
you need.*

*Sample Skill list
for this age group:*

*Identify and name colors
Identify and name body parts
Match alphabet letters
Count to 10
Match pictures
Identify the one that is different
Size and positional concepts
Sorting by color and shape
Complete simple puzzles*

Later Preschool

As your child grows, the gap will widen between his development and that of normally developing children. As you think about what your child needs at this level, consider the following—

- ∞ At the chronological age of four, a child with Down Syndrome will probably need to work on skills that are more appropriate for those of a child of age 2 or 3. Some may have skills below age 2. All children are unique in their development.
- ∞ At the chronological age of five, your child may be on several different levels in each area of development. It is typical for speech to be delayed more than other skill areas.
- ∞ Children with Down Syndrome do not learn as many things incidentally as their normally developing peers. They will need to have more *direct teaching*, and this means a bit of planning on your part.

How do you teach a child who is on so many different developmental levels?

Instead of being overwhelmed (which can easily happen at this point) here is a suggestion that will give you a place to start. Most developmental skill lists are divided into several major areas such as the following:

- ∞ General readiness skills
- ∞ Speech and Language skills
- ∞ Gross Motor skills
- ∞ Fine Motor skills
- ∞ Self-Help Skills
- ∞ Reading readiness skills
- ∞ Math readiness skills
- ∞ Social skills

Sit down and write these areas on a sheet of paper. Check your skill checklist (using a list

such as the Brigance Inventory) to see where your child is developmentally and then write down one obtainable goal for each area. (Later you can add more skills to each area if desired.) Jot down some activities by which that goal will be obtained. Ask other preschool teachers for ideas for activities that will give practice of the skills. Check on some preschool resources. Then write Sunday-Saturday on another sheet of paper. Divide each day into hourly time blocks. Block off times that cannot be used, such as meal times and certain subjects for the other children. Next, write in the activities that you want to teach your special child. Your plan does not need to be detailed. (Note: You may never actually follow this timed schedule, but if you do not plan then nothing will get done.) Many teaching times will come during such times as chore time to give practice sorting toys and meal times to work on the words “please” and “thank you.” Because children with Downs do not learn very fast, the same plans may suit you for several weeks before you need to change them. The following resources may help you in reaching your goals at this stage.

RESOURCES

❖ Brigance Inventory of Early Development-Revised (Birth-Age 7)

This diagnostic manual remains a good check list for this level. (See the *Early Intervention* pamphlet for details about this resource.)

**Timberdoodle Co.
1510 E Spencer Lk Rd
Shelton, WA 98584
(360) 426-0672**

❖ Preschool Workbook Set

If your child’s fine motor abilities are ready for workbooks and he likes workbooks, this set is a possibility. This 4-book set was designed for

children of normal development ages 3-4. (perhaps better used with Down Syndrome children 4-6). These workbooks were developed by an Amish family. They are simple black and white pages. It is advised not to work on the books from front to back, but find pages that would hold interest for your child and also be on his skill level. Change directions if needed to adapt to your child's needs. If things to be colored are too much, you also can color with your child. This way you are modeling how coloring is done. With any workbook that cannot be copied, you can place the pages in a clear vinyl envelope purchased from an office supply store. This will create a wipe off activity that can be practiced again and again using a water-based pen such as a Visa pen or dry-erase marker.

Rod & Staff
PO Box 3, Hwy. 172
Crockett, Kentucky 41413-0003
(800) 643-1244

❖ **Preschool Workbook Set**
(*Timberdoodle* also carries this set of workbooks)

Rod and Staff is a Mennonite publication. The preschool workbooks are black and white and designed for normally developing children 4-5 (perhaps better used with Down Syndrome children ages 5-7). There are five workbooks in the series. (See above for adapting workbook pages.)

- ∞ **Counting With Numbers:** Numbers 1-10. Look at the number formation to be sure this is the way you want your child to be taught. Once taught one way, it will be nearly impossible to reteach another way of writing the numbers.
- ∞ **Do It Carefully:** Shapes, letter sounds, and a few words are introduced. Manuscript letter

formation is taught. Look at the letter formation to be sure this is the way you want your child to be taught. (See the *Handwriting* pamphlet for additional information on handwriting)

- ∞ **Everywhere We Go:** Colors, shapes, consonant sounds, and numbers 1-10.
- ∞ **Finding the Answers:** This book develops thinking skills through hearing rhymes, identifying sequence, understanding sentence meaning, making comparisons and associations. This book may have some advanced skills that may be difficult for some children with Down Syndrome such as the rhyming.

Carson-Dellosa
Instructional Materials

See your local teacher-supply store

- ❖ **Chartlets** These are cardstock charts and can be cut into cards for matching activities. A few are named here.
- ∞ **Colors chartlet**
- ∞ **Upper and Lowercase Letters chartlet**
- ∞ **Mittens for Matching chartlet**

Frank Schaffer
Instructional Materials

See your local teacher-supply store or call 1-800-421-5565 for a catalogue

Two preschool catalogues from Frank Schaffer are **Fearon** and **Totline**. *Totline* has a series, **My First Coloring Book Series**. This series has all black backgrounds. There are no lines to cross. The pictures are simple and appropriate for special needs children with fine motor difficulties.

School Zone
PO Box 777
Grand Haven, MI 49417

www.schoolzone.com

This company has many preschool activities.

ABEKA
1-877-A BEKA BOOK
www.abeka.org

The following two workbooks are simplistic in nature. They are designed for 2-3 year olds but may be appropriate for a 5 to 7 year-old child with Down Syndrome beginning numbers.

- ∞ Learning Numbers with Button Bear (Numbers 1-10)
- ∞ Numbers and Skills with Button Bear (Numbers 1-15)

Thresholds for Threes: Activity Packet

Bob Jones University Press
1-800-845-5731
www.bjup.com

This packet is full of a variety of activities. It includes fun activities for colors, letters, numbers, fine motor activities such as lacing, and seasonal and holiday activities.

“School” is Every Day Living

I hope that this pamphlet will give you a starting place and help you plan as you raise the special gift that God has given to you.

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