

# Inclusively Down



Meeting individual learning needs

Inclusively  
Down  
Exclusives  
September  
2018

Happy new school year – hope everyone had a relaxing break. New year means new look newsletter for Inclusively Down; to give you a flavour of what we have been doing and what is coming up.

## What's been happening...



During the Spring Term we attended Level 1 and Intermediate level training delivered by IPSEA looking at SEND Law, as well as the law specifically around Education Health and Care Plans. This was invaluable in helping us navigate this minefield and has helped improve advice we can now offer.



A highlight of our year so far has been our Inclusively Down road trip to Glasgow. Apart from a cancelled flight on the way home (thank you Easy Jet!) we so enjoyed the opportunity to hear from and network with parents and professionals from all over the World. Take home messages from the key note speakers were many but included: **social interactions flourish when in a supportive environment with socially able playmates, friends, teacher involvement and structure**; **the importance of short, structured, regular practice when delivering interventions**; **recognising the diversity and differences within those with Down syndrome**; **we underestimate the social insight of those with Down syndrome and need to ensure we give them a positive self-image which includes describing their having Down syndrome as part of who they are** -those young people asked were more negative about other unfamiliar peers with Down syndrome when compared to typically developing peers but had a very positive self- perception; **teach a rich and varied inclusive curriculum, within that emphasising what the children will need for the future.**

Presentations from the Congress will be available next month on the World Down syndrome Scotland website

## Training delivered...

As well as our increasing caseload of individual pupils, we continue to work with parent groups and schools in many different counties for training and are adding new ones every term. We have enjoyed delivering training in Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Medway, Kent, Reading and Ealing most recently and are supporting children and young people in an increasing number of locations. We train on a large variety of topics and will be happy to discuss individual requirements.

We have continued to support Learning Support Assistants with networking sessions and some of the highlights they identified included ..... *"Lots of new ideas and good to talk to other TAs and hear what they do", "Opportunity to share experiences and ideas with others doing the same role" and "lots of ideas to implement"*.

Our new interactive workshop focuses on 'Growing Up' and gives attendees an opportunity to go beyond the theory and get their hands-on resources and activities to try out.

## Coming up...

This term we will be working with parent groups including



to help them support their members, parents, school and settings through training. If you are a parent group and would like us to provide training or learning support assistant networking session for you in your area, please do not hesitate in contacting us.

## Training Autumn Term 2018...

### Meeting the Learning Needs of Pupils with Down Syndrome

**DATE: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**VENUE: The Hub, Union Baptist Church, Easton Street, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP11 1NJ**

**TIME: 9:30am – 3:30pm** (Registration and coffee from 9:00am, lunch and all refreshments will be provided)

This whole day course is aimed at all staff/professionals working with pupils with Down syndrome, that have not previously had any training. This session will enable you to teach and support pupils with Down syndrome more effectively. It will cover the key elements of the specific learning profile, how you can best support progress, dispel some myths and give you strategies and resource ideas, based on research and good practice, to ensure you can meet their individual learning needs. We will also consider the role of the support assistant and what effective inclusion looks like.

Please complete the booking form on our website [www.inclusivelydown.co.uk](http://www.inclusivelydown.co.uk) and return via email to [contact@inclusivelydown.co.uk](mailto:contact@inclusivelydown.co.uk) by Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to secure a place

To ensure you receive the latest news and event updates log on to our website [www.inclusivelydown.co.uk](http://www.inclusivelydown.co.uk) and subscribe to our mailing list on the 'Contact Us' page. All past editions of this Newsletter can also be found there. **Also keep checking with our Facebook page**

**Lucy Clark and Julie Knight**

