

TIPS ON WORKING WITH CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME

KEY BEHAVIORAL DEFICITS:

- **Transition Problems**
- **Shut Down/Non-compliance (“No!”)**
- **Silly Behaviors: poking, giggling, attention-getting**

MOTTO: “C.U.B.”: COMPETENT, USEFUL, AND BUSY

- 1. Transition Picture Strips**
- 2. Take a picture of the child performing the activity properly. Add a line of text to clarify the expectation. “Johnny sits at his desk and writes his numbers”**
- 3. Frequent Tangible and Attention Rewards**
- 4. Jobs that build self esteem and keep the child focused on constructive activities**
- 5. Reduce the need for long walks to special activities/ consider scheduling to minimize long “wasted” travel times. For example: bathroom break should occur when the child naturally passes the bathroom to avoid an extra transition.**
- 6. Inclusion needs to focus on informal social interaction times; facilitate friendships during class times, not just lunch and recess.**
- 7. Use errorless approaches. Children with DS are very sensitive to errors and shut down when they do not “know the answers”**
- 8. Understand that performance varies widely. Do not insist on consistent demonstration of skills before moving on. This can contribute to stagnation.**
- 9. Avoid power struggles. Move on and get started on activities rather than creating a “stand-off”. Often the child will follow your lead.**
- 10. Use animated positive feedback to encourage performance.**