

DOWN SYNDROME ADVISORY SUPPORT

Children and young people with Down Syndrome, educated in nurseries, schools and colleges in the St Albans and Harpenden area, are offered advice and support by experienced Down Syndrome Advisory Teachers organised and funded by DSPL7.

DSPL7 has agreements with three specialist teachers who are able to go into nurseries, schools or colleges to observe the child or young person and to advise the teachers and SENCOs on how best to support and meet their educational needs. The advisor will go into the setting for 2 or 3 hours, depending on the age of the child, and give verbal feedback and advice. Parents are encouraged to meet with the advisor during the visit. If the parent cannot attend it is possible to arrange for the advisor to discuss the visit on the phone at a pre-arranged time. Following the meeting the advisor will provide a detailed report. This will contain agreed targets that will be specifically reviewed at the next visit.

DSPL7 pays for one visit each academic year. Additional advice and training is available if required in which case the setting will be responsible for meeting the cost.

The DSPL7 Board monitors the advice and outcomes for the children and young people on an ongoing basis. Settings are required to complete an evaluation form after each visit from the advisor.

For nurseries, schools and colleges in DSPL7 the costs as described are met by the DSPL7 local area funding. Other DSPL Groups or settings outside of the area are able to buy into the service for a small additional administration cost.

In addition to the individual advisory visits, the specialist teachers run termly **Network meetings for school staff at St Albans Girls' School**. This enables the staff to receive ongoing advice and training. These Network sessions are free to attend.

Training Opportunities

- ◆ ***Down Syndrome Education Training Course – 8 * 3 hour sessions***
- ◆ ***Accredited Down Syndrome Reading & Language Intervention Programme — 2 day training Programme***

For further information on the referral process or for details of Network sessions please contact
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