

Down Syndrome Educational Alliance

A Partnership with Bay Area School Districts



Down Syndrome

THE MISSION OF THE DOWN SYNDROME CONNECTION OF THE BAY AREA (DSCBA) is to promote the unique contributions of children, teens, and adults with Down syndrome by providing direct services to them and to their families, and to educate the public by fostering inclusive and integrated involvement with the Down syndrome community and society at large. We have been working toward this mission for more than 15 years. Significant components of this support are our guidance and resources for children entering and in the educational systems.

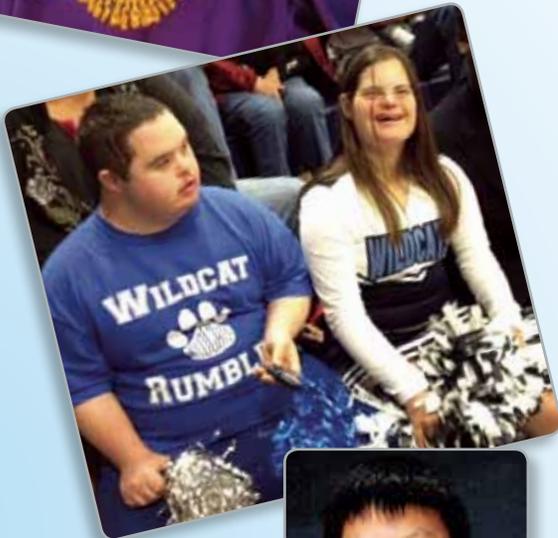
We realize that it is equally important to provide educational and training opportunities to the educators who spend countless hours dedicated to fostering the development of students with Down syndrome. Providing this support to educators is what the Down Syndrome Educational Alliance (DSEA) aims to do. We are committed to providing educators and professionals with up-to-date information and services regarding research-based best practices for educating students with Down syndrome.

People with Down syndrome are not simply “globally delayed” in all areas; there is a general learning and cognitive profile with clear strengths and weaknesses regarding how students with Down syndrome perceive, process, and express information. Our goal is to share that information with as many educators as possible so that all students, particularly those with Down syndrome, can reach their fullest potential.

As one example, we know that young school-aged children with Down syndrome often have limited verbal ability. This may be due to an expressive/receptive gap, apraxia of speech, and/or low muscle tone. It is important not to simply assume the student didn't understand your request. Also, because people with Down syndrome often experience a processing delay, by simply waiting 10 seconds for a response, you can change the life of a student with Down syndrome and allow him or her to participate with peers.

When a school district joins our Educational Alliance, we train and support educator teams and administrators so that they can understand specific learning profiles, strengths, and weaknesses of students with Down syndrome. After training, each attendee receives ample pertinent information on educating students with Down syndrome. Topics addressed include behavior, communication, inclusion, curriculum adaptation, and more.

When a school district agrees to partner with the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area, they have access to numerous benefits and resources.



**“Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.”**

Benjamin Franklin

Educational Alliance

Additional DSEA Advantages

Services offered are for the benefit of the entire education team, including general and special education teachers, paraeducators, administrators, and others.

Consultation

- Call and/or email us when you have questions about supporting students with Down syndrome.
- Access our consultants and topic-specific specialists in these areas: augmentative and alternative communication, behavior, development, and more. In-classroom assistance is also available.
- Obtain assistance adapting and modifying curriculum as well as setting up the environment for success.

Information Sources

- Receive a bimonthly e-newsletter, *The Bridge*, specific to educating students with Down syndrome.
- Access our “Resources for Professionals” section of our website, where you will find a comprehensive educator’s manual and more.
- Access our Facebook page with nationally shared information and resources.

Materials/Libraries

- Take advantage of borrowing privileges for our substantial book, journal, and DVD library, and for our research-based literacy and/or numeracy curricula.

- Access our extensive augmentative and alternative communication devices and assistive technology library.

Training Resources

- Notification. Receive priority notification of a minimum of three training sessions per year. Topics have included: “DS 101,” behavior, literacy, augmentative alternative communication (AAC), numeracy, and more.
- On-site. Guarantee a minimum of 25 participants, and we will bring training to your Bay Area school district site.
- Ability awareness. We will come to your classroom or school to present ability awareness training and discussion (K-12).

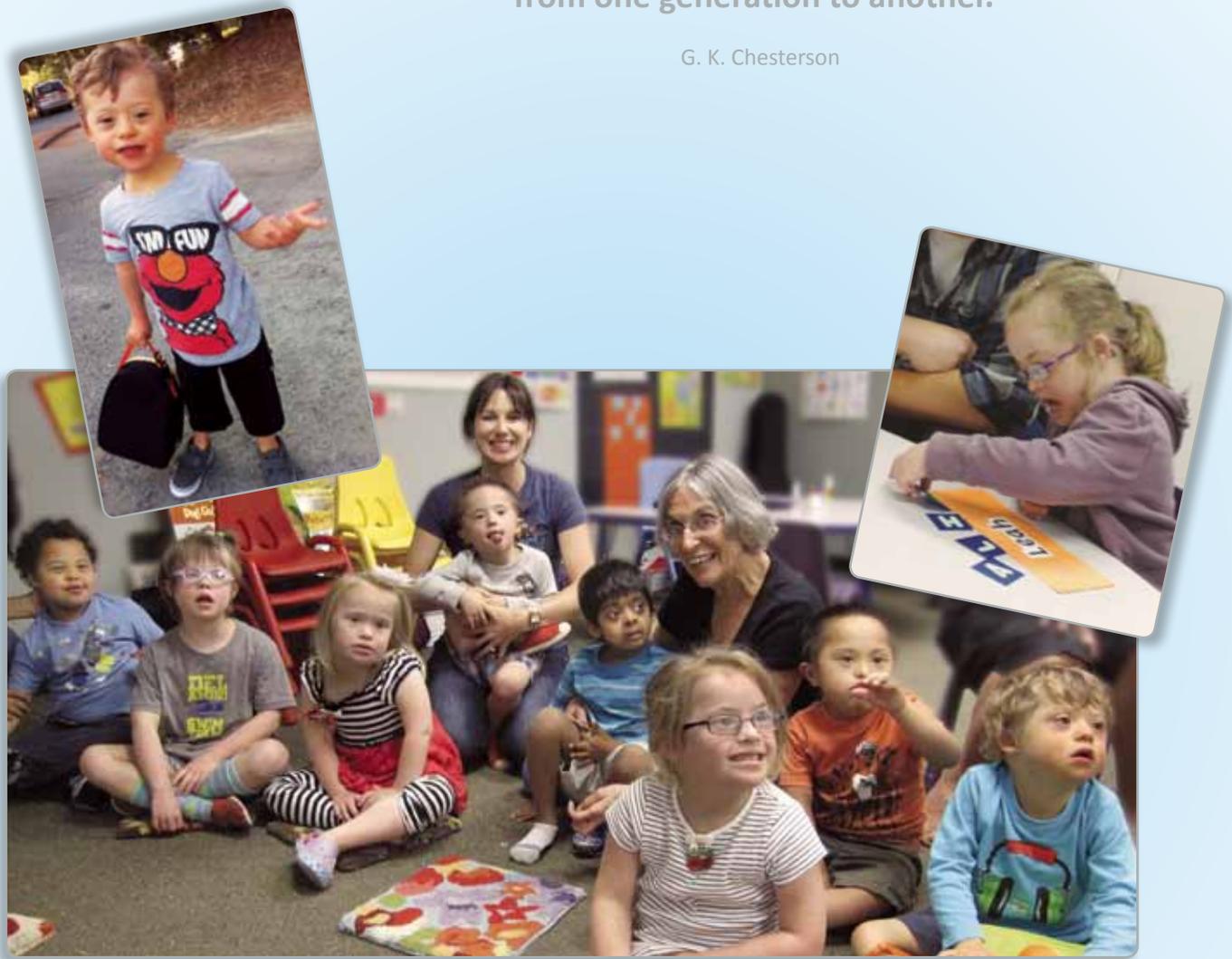
Added Benefits

- Professional education units are available for workshops and training.
- The training and information is applicable to and benefits ALL students.
- This specialized training is not offered anywhere else.
- It’s FREE.
- Everyone benefits!



“Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes
from one generation to another.”

G. K. Chesterson



Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area

101 J Town and Country Drive, Danville CA 94526

925-362-8660 – www.dsconnection.org – www.facebook.com/dscba

Email us: dscba@dsconnection.org