

# Teaching Reading to Learners with Down Syndrome

## Part 2

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## PERSONAL PAGES

Homework Report?

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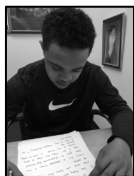
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Personal Pages...



The Super-Motivator!

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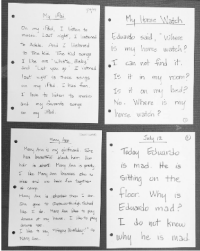
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- Fast
- Easy
- Kids love it
- Home & School Use
- Terrific tool for generalizing vocabulary



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Todd Is Mad

I see Todd on the floor. Why is Todd on the floor?  
Todd is mad. That is why he is on the floor.  
Why is he mad? I do not know. I will ask him.

**A terrific reading tool in 5 minutes.**

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**PHONICS FIST FIGHT**

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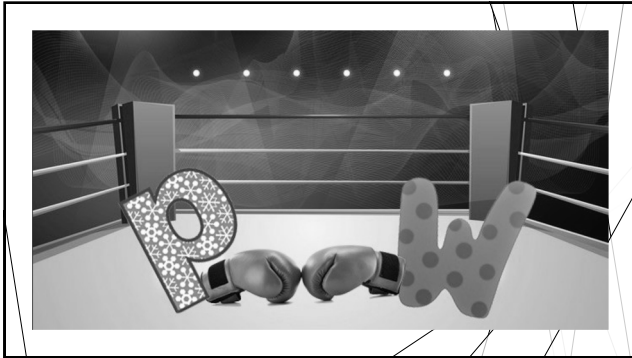
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**Debate History**

of Phonics  
vs.  
Whole Word  
Learning

- ▶ 4 Centuries
- ▶ Many studies done on both sides of the argument
- ▶ Turn-taking in prominence ever 30-50 years or so
- ▶ Each time phonics returned to power, it was different than previously used
- ▶ Both sides have good research to back their view
- ▶ Let's consider the learning weaknesses in Down syndrome when we choose an approach (auditory processing difficulties, etc)

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**Analytic Phonics**

- From the whole to the parts
- High interest words learned first, then broken into parts
- Decoding ability grows with experience

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## Synthetic Phonics

- ▶ From the part to the whole: blends, digraphs, diphthongs learned first
- ▶ Parts later assembled into words
- ▶ Requires working memory and cognitive ability frequently beyond the grasp of learners with Down syndrome

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## COMPREHENSION

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- 1.Referential
- 2.Inferential

## Comprehension

- ▶There is no comprehension without fluency and speed.

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Fluency

- ▶ Don't interrupt for more than 2-3 seconds
- ▶ Keep a running record of stumbles
- ▶ Work those errors later
- ▶ Repeat a sentence (paragraph) 3 times
- ▶ Join in the 3<sup>rd</sup> time for encouraging speed

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**USE THE OTHER SIDE!**

This is your "Magic Decoding Card"

**How To:**

- Using the WHITE side, cover all but the first letter of a difficult word, sound it out.
- Then drag the card to show the first syllable, then the next, sounding out each as you go.

**GOAL: Reduce Task Size!**

**Magic Decoding Card**

Small task size!

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What about Comprehension?

- ▶ When a child learns to read for meaning, comprehension follows naturally.

This is how previous generations learned to read.

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Is it normal for my child's comprehension level to lag behind his reading level?

What should I do?

Keep working at  
"Reading for Meaning"

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Resource:

### Strategies That Work 3 <sup>(3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)</sup>

1. Short, High Interest Text
2. Teach Active Reading rather than Passive Reading
3. Sticky Notes: This is what happened; Huh?; What I think about this; etc.
4. **Teaching reading comprehension is mostly about TEACHING THINKING**
5. Student rereads each paragraph twice; then once again silently to herself.
6. Early on, use colored highlighters to code questions and answers; later, eliminate the colors.

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### Comprehension TIPS

- ▶ Comprehension questions: avoid compound sentences when possible
- ▶ Place the crucial part of the question at the end of the sentence
- ▶ Rephrase questions to match the cognitive ability of the child
- ▶ Use visuals whenever possible

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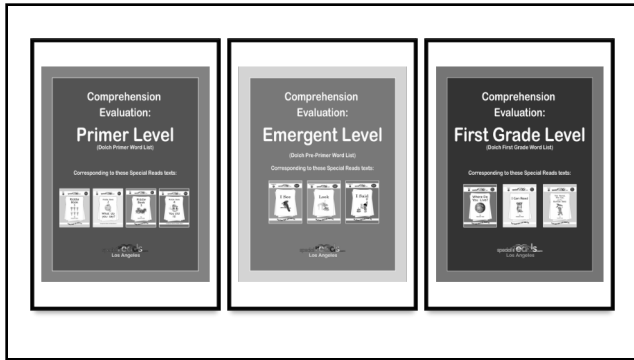
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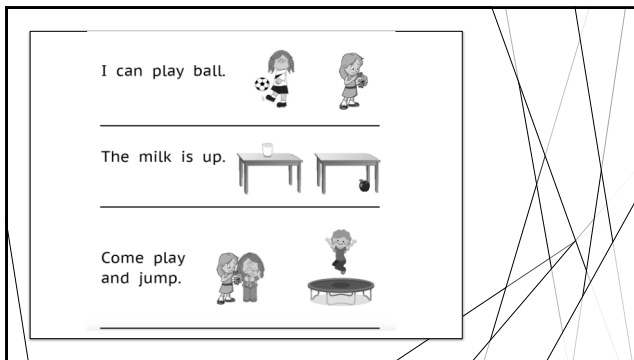
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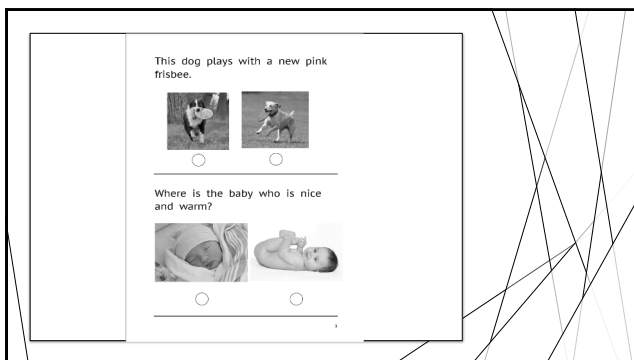
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Comprehension Fun 1




The puppy did not want to read.  
He wanted to go for a walk.  
When he listened to a story, he  
fell asleep.

Who did not want to read?

What did the puppy want to do?

When did the puppy fall asleep?

Comprehension Fun 1  
(Without Color Prompts)



The puppy did not want to read.  
He wanted to go for a walk.  
When he listened to a story, he  
fell asleep.

Who did not want to read?

What did the puppy want to do?

When did the puppy fall asleep?

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## NONVERBAL READING

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**Apraxia (CAS) + DS = 20-30%**

- is NOT a developmental delay
- is a motor disorder involving coordination of the brain and speech muscles
- needs specialized speech therapy
- as a medical diagnosis, should get appropriate services



iPad Screenshots \$4.99 Category: Medical



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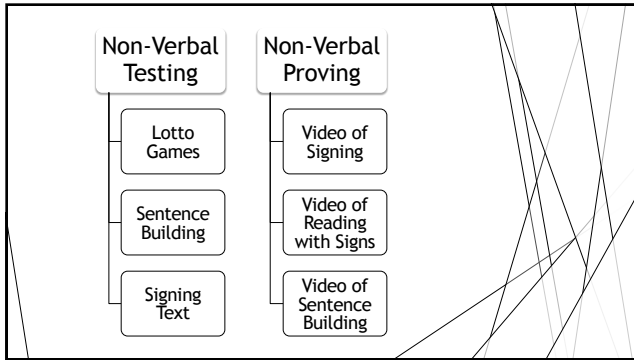
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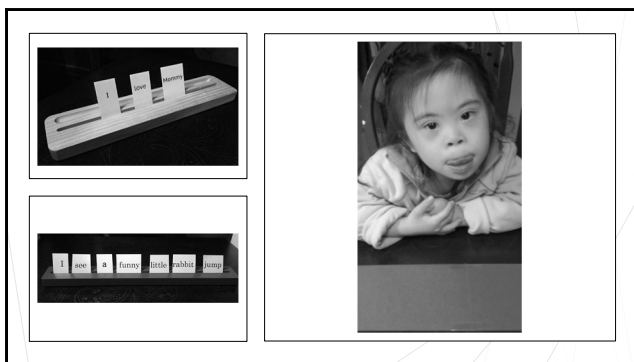
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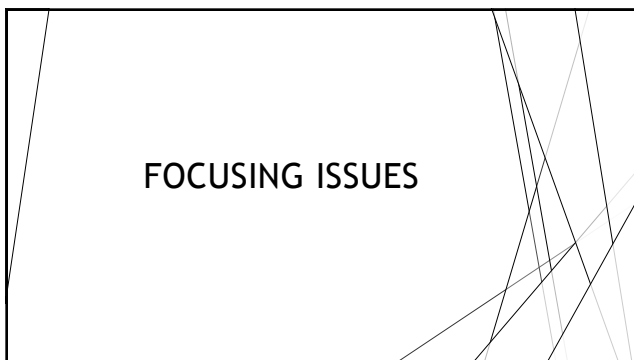
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DS/ASD/ADHD:  
Reduce all sensory input.



SIGHT HEARING SMELL TOUCH TASTE

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Focusing Help for  
ASD/Autism/DS/ADHD/ADD

Sentence Building  
Signing Text

Cook said, can you help

Sentence Building  
Signing Text



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Use soft incandescent lighting;  
no florescent lighting

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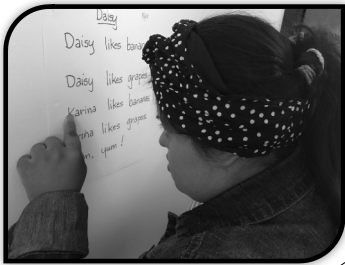
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Reduce the visual field.



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Q & A

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