

Some Helpful Questions

Do you feel comfortable and welcome?

Do the staff appear to be interested in your child? Are they interested in what you can tell them about your child?

How do they describe the main aims of the school? Does it sound as though your child will be included?

How much choice will your child get regarding activities? Will they be included in all school activities? If not, then which areas won't they be included in and why?

How did staff get on with your child at a first meeting? Are you happy with their attitude and style of working? How did your child react to them?

How do they handle liaison between home and school/nursery?

What resources does the school have? Ask about qualified specialist teachers, access to medical and therapy staff if appropriate, and other specialist resources.

Who exactly will work with your child? If they don't yet know, how will they decide?

How many children are there per each member of staff?

How much, if anything, do staff members know about Down's syndrome and other learning disabilities? What training or experience have they had with children with Down's syndrome?

What is your transition process currently and can it be adapted to suit the needs of my child?

For example, can arrangements be made for someone to visit my child in their current setting in order to observe?

Can extra visits to the new setting be facilitated if required?

UPS n Downs

Celebrating, Educating and Supporting

It is not necessary for your child's teacher or assistant to have previous experience of teaching or supporting a child with Down's syndrome. All children who have Down's syndrome are different and most of their needs are the same as those of other children. Teachers and assistants will need to know about the learning profile (pattern of strengths and weaknesses) of a child with Down's syndrome. Information and training will help staff feel confident to teach children with Down's syndrome of all abilities in their classrooms. One day of training and information published by the DSA will get them started.

If you have any further questions, please email chair@upsndowns.co.uk

Thank you.