

# Common Strengths & Challenges of Individuals with Down syndrome.



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Every individual has different strengths and challenges but it can't hurt to be reminded that the traits that make your student so magnificent are ones that you can lean on to maximize their learning potential! **Some common strengths include:**

- *Visual* learning and visual processing
- *Visual* short-term memory
- Empathy and social understanding
- Self-help and daily living skills
- Utilization of technology
- Reading accuracy
- Receptive language

**Your student with Down syndrome has challenges that will affect the way they learn. Recognition of both challenges and strengths can help you select the right mix of materials, curricula, and assistive technologies to maximize learning. Some common challenges include:**

- Fine motor skills
- Auditory working memory
- Attention span and distractibility
- Reading comprehension
- Mathematics
- Expressive language

**Some physical challenges and medical diagnoses may also impact your student's school day. Some common physical traits include:**

- Hearing and vision weaknesses
- Low muscle tone affecting endurance on academic and motor tasks
- Balance issues
- Sleep apnea
- Gastrointestinal issues
- Thyroid complications
- Wide spread feet causing challenges with coordination and mobility
- Short, broad fingers affecting fine motor skills