

# Think Big, Think Bold

## Reduced visual acuity

April 2023

People who have Down's syndrome see the world differently – their world lacks fine details and sharp contrasts.

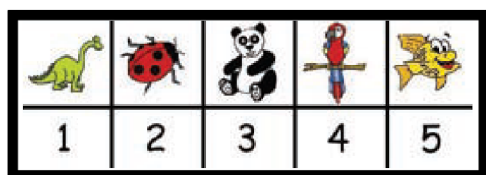
In order to compensate for their poorer visual acuity we can make the world around them big and bold.

# Think BIG, Think BOLD

Reduced visual acuity (clearness of vision) affects 100% of people who have Down's Syndrome.



**You and I may see this:**



**A child who has Down's syndrome will see this:**



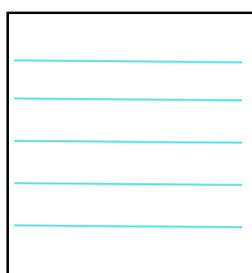
## Reduced visual acuity in the classroom

- As children become more proficient in reading, typically the text in books and worksheets gets smaller. For children who have Down's syndrome, this makes reading, worksheets and fine detailed tasks more difficult.
- This may impact the ability of a child who has Down's syndrome to stay on track and may result in their not completing tasks and losing interest.

## Strategies for overcoming vision issues

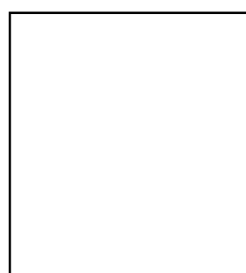
- Move child's desk, or seat closer to the front or close to focal point.
- Do not use books with thin blue lines;

**Typical vision:**



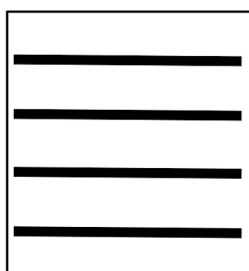
Feint blue lines

**Child who has Down's syndrome sees this:**



No lines

**Child who has Down's syndrome needs this:**



Lines bold and well spaced

## Whiteboard

- Use larger text and emphasize key words in different colours but avoid blue and green together.
- Reduce the text to be copied or provide printed version on desk.

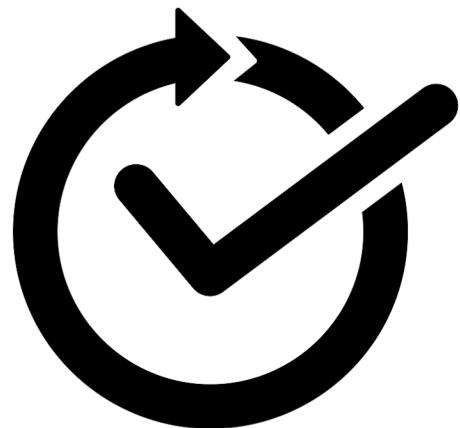
## Worksheets

- Increase the contrast i.e. bold black on white.
- **Text no smaller than 18pt.**
- Uncluttered and less detailed.
- Sentences and paragraphs well spaced.
- Avoid colour photos photocopied in black and white.

## Letter formation and written tasks

- Use only felt pen or, with younger children, soft dark art pencils (e.g. 8 or 10B)
- Always use bold well spaced lines.

For more information about eyesight please visit our [website](#).



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# CONTACT US

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