



# Round-up of complex needs meeting (Dec 2023)

We started with introductions, there were many people who were attending a complex needs meeting for the first time. We summarised the previous meeting and fed back about the in person gathering in London on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. The overriding theme that has come through from feedback was how much people valued meeting in person and learning from each other.

Topic: Challenges and top tips for Christmas

# Points from discussion

One parent opened the discussion by talking about how she tells her daughter in advance about what presents she will be getting. This had really helped her daughter to engage with the receiving of presents.

Discussion moved into the positioning of the Christmas tree and how to prevent it being pulled over. Ideas offered included placing the tree in a playpen, attaching the tree at the top to the wall and only dressing the out of reach part of the tree.

Having visitors to the house was something that some people highlighted difficult. One parent mentioned planning a gathering of neighbours at the family home but putting in place an exit plan for her son.

Some people said that any change in the house was difficult for their son or daughter. Some families limited their use of decorations to specific places and avoided decorations in people's bedrooms.

Lessening expectations of Christmas generally was a central theme.

Someone brought up the fact that school seemed concerned about her child's lack of interest in other children at school. This resulted in a short discussion about friendship and connection and how this might look a little different.

We reviewed previous sessions in 2023 and conducted a zoom poll to help plan future sessions.

### Zoom Poll – 2023 and 2024

Attendees completed a zoom poll reviewing the year and offering suggestions for 2024.

#### **COMING SOON**



Down's syndrome with complex needs support for parent carers



Next online complex needs meeting  $23^{rd}$  January 2024

18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 10.30am - midday



1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 10.30am - midday

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 10.30am - midday

#### Please book via the training and support page on the website

Part two

https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/our-work/services-projects/training/

### **Complex Needs Webpage**

DOWN'S SYNDROME ASSOCIATION

https://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/about-downs-syndrome/lifes-journey/downssyndrome-with-complex-needs/