



Down Syndrome Specialist Job Description

The Down Syndrome Association of Memphis & the Mid-South (DSAM) is asking each school district to appoint Down Syndrome Specialists, a school district employee who agrees to volunteer their time to be a liaison between the Down Syndrome Organization and their school district to share resources on best practices for educating students with Down syndrome.

In consideration of the school district appointing a specialist, the Down Syndrome Association of Memphis & the Mid-South would offer all of our training and conferences at no cost to the specialist from each school district. **For many of our conferences, all teachers would be able to attend free.** But, for the specialists, all conferences and trainings would be provided free of charge.

Each year children with Down syndrome encounter general education teachers that have not had the opportunity to receive training in teaching methods which have been successful for children with Down syndrome. The Down Syndrome Association wants to make this information available to teachers through **DSAM programs** and the **Down Syndrome Specialist** within the teacher's school district.

The Down Syndrome Specialist would be:

- Vitally interested in the education of children and adults with Down syndrome.
- Employed by the school district on a long term basis.
- Available to attend conferences and lectures provided by the Down Syndrome Association of Memphis & the Mid-South. We anticipate 3 - 4 conferences/lectures a year.
- Willing to disseminate information and act as a resource to teachers currently teaching children with Down syndrome.
- Available to assist as an interventionist when needed. Our vision is to have someone who can offer advice when an IEP team is at an impasse or needs ideas. The unique blend of being a school district employee as well as someone who has firsthand knowledge of information being offered to parents by DSAM, would allow the specialist to bring IEP teams together in the best interest of the child. Parents would know this person has the support of DSAM while school staff would know this person is an employee of the district.
- Be a contact person for DSAM when important information regarding children with Down syndrome becomes available.

Training topics change from year to year, therefore, specialist would have the ability to provide teachers with specific information that may have been previously presented.

A specialist might also be able to recognize patterns of behavior and/or learning challenges that are common to children with Down syndrome resulting in suggestions of appropriate interventions.

As the horizon changes for children with Down syndrome in general education, the school district would always be up to date through their resource - the Down Syndrome Specialist.