

Contact Us



This program is designed to support reading for individuals with Down syndrome of all ages and abilities.

The Down Syndrome Association of Memphis and the Mid-South is a volunteer-driven organization. If you are interested in volunteering your time or

<https://www.facebook.com/DSAMemphis>



**DSAM Memphis
2893 S. Mendenhall Road, Suite 3
Memphis, TN 38115**



**Reading is
Key**



Our Mission

The Down Syndrome Association of Memphis and the Mid-South [DSAM] is an organization whose mission is to support and empower individuals with Down syndrome and their families. DSAM seeks to promote inclusion of all individuals with Down syndrome in all aspects of life. We provide families and our communities with up-to-date information and education. We strive to educate society and foster positive attitudes of people with Down syndrome. We believe that diversity is a fundamental strength of our organization. Our mission is best fulfilled when we embrace diversity as a value and practice inclusion of individuals with Down syndrome.



"In 2013 I attended a conference workshop by Natalie Hale, the creator of Special Reads for Special Needs. I was intrigued by her methodology of teaching reading to readers with Down syndrome. It was applicable to all ages and it was proven to work. She had taught non readers, nonverbal readers and all ages with great success. Having been a single Mom while my daughter with

- Martine Hobson, Executive Director

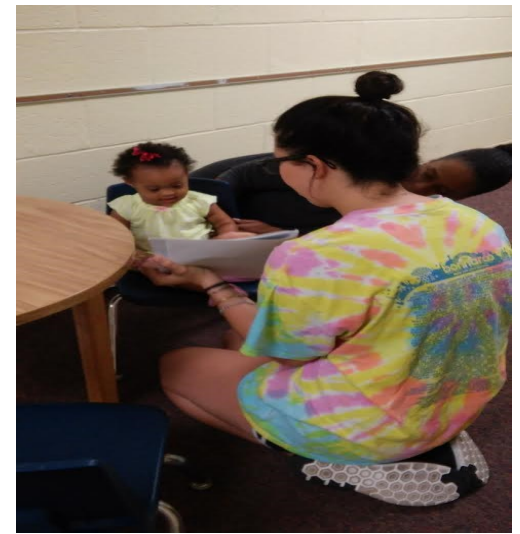


Reading is Key

We have volunteers and staff members that spend one-on-one reading time with the students. The stories are individualized for each student. Flashcards are utilized including high interest words and high frequency words. A method called fast flash is used to teach the words to the reader. Once the student has mastered the flashcards, they are able to read the story with ease and have gained the ability to recognize other words in the process. Parents are required to take the stories home to work with their children five minutes twice a day."

- Martine Hobson, Executive Director

"This program is based on Natalie Hale's 'Special Reads for Special Needs.' Ms Hale came to Memphis to present to: The Down Syndrome Specialist Teacher Training. Belle Eftink, one of our teachers in attendance took the program back to her school and began using it with her pre-school class. Ms Eftink's students with and without Down syndrome learned to Read using her method. As Executive Director, I collaborated with Ms Belle to start our Reading is Key tutoring program based on Natalie Hale's "Special Reads for Special Needs:."



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