

**AIMS** The purpose of the association is to find ways to improve the lives of those with Down Syndrome and to help them reach their full potential. With adequate stimulation from an early age and proper education, children with Down Syndrome can develop a high degree of competence. The principal aims of the association are as follows:-

- To provide a counselling service and information to parents and guardians of persons with Down Syndrome, especially those with new-born babies.
- To ensure that proper and appropriate educational facilities are available to children with Down Syndrome, with the realistic option of attending ordinary national schools.
- To promote research into the causes of Down Syndrome, and to keep parents informed of developments taking place at home and abroad for the advancement and care of people with Down Syndrome.
- To liaise with the Departments of Health and Children; Social, Community and Family Affairs; Education and Science; and Enterprise, Trade and Employment; and with other relevant authorities and national organisations.
- To provide a forum where parents and guardians can meet and exchange views and ideas.
- To establish a system of advocacy and guardianship for adults and children with Down Syndrome who have lost their parents.
- The ultimate objective is the integration of people with Down Syndrome into the community with full citizen's rights as laid down in European Union directives and the United Nations charter.

**ABOUT US** Down Syndrome Ireland is an organisation of people with Down syndrome and their parents and guardians. It has over 3000 member families with 25 branches nationwide, and is funded by voluntary contributions and events organised by its members.



Down Syndrome Ireland has grown from modest beginnings in 1971 into a truly national organisation. It is the biggest single group concerned with the welfare of people with a learning disability in Ireland.

## Mission Statement

People experience many great things and also face many challenges throughout their lives. People with Down Syndrome are no different, but may need a little extra help and support along the way. Down Syndrome Ireland's goal is to help people with Down Syndrome make their own futures as bright and independent as possible by providing them with education, support and friendship every step of the way



This Cross-Border Links Seminar on Special Educational Needs has been funded by the PEACE III Programme through the European Union's European Regional Development Fund managed for the Special EU Programmes Body by Leitrím County Council on behalf of County Leitrím Peace III Partnership



Cross-Border Links  
in association with  
**Down Syndrome Ireland**  
Leitrím West Cavan



# Seminar on Special Educational Needs

In Association with

HSE - Learning Disability Service  
Carrick On Shannon, Education Centre

**The Landmark Hotel**  
**Carrick On Shannon**  
**Thursday November 11th 2010**



# EDUCATION

Education is the process that enables each child to achieve his or her potential. The word education derives from the Latin verb educo, meaning 'to draw forth from within'. Education provides children with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and life skills that will help them to become successful adult members of their community. The social learning opportunities provided by schools are as important as academic learning.



What are the goals of education for children with Down syndrome? They are the same as for all other children; which is to equip children with Down Syndrome to lead independent adult lives in the community. Most will need some degree of support from friends, family and services, but education will make a significant difference to the level of independence achieved in work, social and leisure life (from Down Syndrome Education International – Education for Individuals with Down syndrome – An overview (2000, Sue Buckley and Gillian Bird) The Education of Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 (EPSEN) makes provision for the education of children with special educational needs (SEN) in mainstream schools:

*“... to provide that the education of people with [such] needs shall, wherever possible, take place in an inclusive environment with those who do not have such needs, to provide that people with special educational needs shall have the same right to avail of and benefit from appropriate education as do their peers who do not have such needs, to assist children with special educational needs to leave school with the skills necessary to participate to the level of their capacity in an inclusive way in the social and economic activities of society and to live independent and fulfilled lives”*

(EPSEN ACT, 2004, preamble)

## Free Cross-Border Links Seminar on Special Educational Needs

**This is a free seminar aimed at:**  
Teaching staff and SNA's,  
Healthcare professionals,  
National Council for Special Needs,  
Parents, Guardians & Carers.

There is no substitution cover

### Seminar Programme

<b>9.00 am</b>	Registration	
<b>9.20 am</b>	Introduction Welcome	<b>Geraldine Cosgrove Linda Gilligan</b>
<b>9.30 am</b>	Pat Dolan	<b>Local Health Manager</b>
<b>10.00 am</b>	Transitions	<b>Alison O'Mara</b>
<b>10.30 am</b>	Special Needs Education in Northern Ireland	<b>Suzanne McCanney</b>
<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Tea &amp; Coffee</b>	
<b>11.15 am</b>	Building Confidence & Self Esteem	<b>Mary Hough</b>
<b>11.45 am</b>	The Role of the SENO	<b>Mr. S Goulding</b>
<b>12.15 pm - 1.00 pm</b>	<b>Full Lunch</b>	
<b>1.00 pm</b>	Assessment of Needs & Disability Act	<b>Paula Rochford Nevin</b>
<b>1.15 pm</b>	Psychological Assessment & Review Process	<b>Sandra Gray</b>
<b>1.30 pm</b>	S.E.S.S. Role and Support for Teachers	<b>Helen Ginty</b>
<b>1.45 pm</b>	Post-Secondary School Training & Education	<b>Carmel Wynne</b>
<b>2.00 pm</b>	Panel Discussion, Q+A Session facilitated by the Speakers	
<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Tea &amp; Coffee</b>	
<b>3.30 pm</b>	Training session for parents & teachers on Numicon	

## Booking Form

Name

Address

School / Organisation

Role

Mobile / Telephone:

Email:

Training session on Numicon Yes  No   
Parent   
Teacher   
SNA

Places are limited - Early booking recommended

**RSVP - 3rd November 2010**

Special Educational Needs Seminar,  
Carrick on Shannon Education Centre  
Marymount  
Carrick On Shannon,  
Co. Leitrim  
071 96 20383

Please copy booking form as necessary