



## Down Syndrome Specialist Job Description

The Omaha Down Syndrome Parents Network (ODSPN) is asking each school district to appoint a Down Syndrome Specialist (DSS). ODSPN representatives will work through the Special Education Director of the school district to make this happen.

The DSS would be:

- Vitally interested in the education of students with Down syndrome.
- Employed by the school district on a long-term basis.
- Available to attend conferences and lectures provided by the ODSPN. We anticipate 2 – 3 conferences/lectures a year.
- Willing to disseminate information to teachers currently teaching students with Down syndrome.
- Willing to act as a resource person for teachers currently teaching students 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 ODSPN, would allow the DSS to bring IEP teams together in the best interest of the student. Parents would know this person has the support of ODSPN. School staffs would know this person is an employee of the district.
- Be a contact person for ODSPN when important information regarding students with Down syndrome becomes available.

Each year students with Down syndrome encounter regular education teachers who have not had the opportunity to receive training in teaching methods, which have been successful for children with Down syndrome. ODSPN wants to make this information available to teachers through both our conferences and the DSS within the teacher's school district.

Because our conference topics and training change from year to year, we feel a specialist would be able to share with teachers' specific information that may have been previously presented. We also feel that a specialist might be able to recognize patterns of behavior and/or learning challenges that are common to students with Down syndrome and therefore be able to suggest appropriate interventions.

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

In consideration of the school district appointing a specialist, ODSPN will offer all of our training and conferences at no cost to the DSS from each school district.