

Further information about speech and language co-worker networks can be found at:

[www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/resources.html](http://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/resources.html)

Information about the services offered by Symbol UK (speech and language advisors to the DSA) can be found at:

[www.symboluk.co.uk](http://www.symboluk.co.uk)

For more information about our language groups, or our support group, please contact:

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Paignton  
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[www.downsouth.org.uk](http://www.downsouth.org.uk)



*DownSouth is a registered charity number  
1103696*

*Affiliated with The National Down's  
Syndrome Association*

*Member of the Contact a Family Local  
Parent Support Group Network*

DownSouth  
Down's Syndrome  
Support Group



Speech and language  
groups

## Who are we?

We are a group that has been formed by parents and carers to support children and adults with Down's Syndrome and their families, living in the Torbay, South Hams and Teignbridge areas of South Devon.

## Speech and language groups

Communication skills affect every aspect of people's lives and can be particularly difficult for people with Down's syndrome. Research has shown that people with Down's syndrome continue to benefit from speech therapy throughout their lives to help them to develop to their full potential. Unfortunately, many people with Down's syndrome do not receive the help they need.

The aim of our speech and language groups is to provide a safe, enjoyable and stimulating environment in which young people have the opportunity to practice their speech and language skills in a structured and fun way.

## Who can take part?

Our speech and language groups are open to all people with Down's syndrome aged 11 years or older and living in Torbay, South Hams and Teignbridge.

## When and where?

The groups take place in **Totnes**, South Devon. They take place fortnightly in term-time - on a **Saturday morning**. Each session is 1½ hours long - one hour speech and language group with a 30 minutes social communication session. The cost is £10 per session.

The sessions follow the co-worker network model devised by the DSA/ Symbol UK. Each session is run by a co-worker who has been trained in the specific language profile of people with DS and who is supervised by a registered Speech and Language Therapist with specific expertise in Down's syndrome.

## Some of the things we do

Some of the areas of communication that are practiced in our groups are:

- Attention to language
- Memory skills
- Understanding language
- Building vocabulary
- Getting the message across in words and/or signs
- Using sentences
- Communicating socially
- Listening to others
- Using sounds
- Using reading to build language

And much more!

Families who are in receipt of direct payments may be able to use them to pay for these sessions.

