



Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

dse 


**down syndrome
education international**
discovering potential • transforming lives

**Introducing See and Learn
Language and Reading**

Professor Sue Buckley OBE
Director of Research
Down Syndrome Education International




Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 1

dse 

Overview

- What is See and Learn?
 - some common design features and developmental benefits
 - how See and Learn programs fit together
- What is See and Learn Language and Reading?
- Why is it needed?
- How have we designed it?
- How do you use it?


Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 2

dse 

What is See and Learn?


See and Learn provides practical, targeted and evidence-based approaches to promote the development of language, reading, speech, memory and number skills for children with Down syndrome and similar learning difficulties

www.seeandlearn.org




Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 3

Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

See and Learn – program design features 


- An evidence based developmental approach (draws on the latest research on how children learn and develop)
- Adapted for the learning profile of children with Down syndrome (draws on the research on how children with Down syndrome learn and develop)
- Small steps, structure, repetition and practice
- Builds on visual learning strengths – clear pictures, print
- Supports verbal learning weaknesses – simple language
- Encourages listening, attention and concentration
- Adapts to individual child's needs and progress

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 4

See and Learn – program design features 

- Teaches 'pivotal' behaviours which children use to learn – following directions, responding to questions, imitating, taking turns, initiating, playing with a partner
- In ways that support success, encourage problem solving, persistence and feelings of competence
- Provides graded teaching activities, in printed kit or app format, with easy to follow instructions and record sheets to chart progress
- Include suggestions for consolidating and extending learning during play and everyday activities at home or at preschool


Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 5

See and Learn programs 


- **See and Learn Speech** – to improve speech skills and improve speech clarity
- **See and Learn Language and Reading** – to develop language by teaching vocabulary and sentences (grammar) to improve children's ability to talk and join in conversations, to develop early reading skills
- **See and Learn Number** – to teach the basics of counting
- **See and Learn Memory** – to improve memory
- **Will be used alongside each other – for short periods daily**

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 6


Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

See and Learn Language and Reading 

- An evidence-based teaching programme designed to help parents and educators teach early vocabulary and simple sentences (grammar), and to introduce reading
- For children from 12 months of age into school years
- Grammar is being learned in school years




Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 7

Learning to talk – difference between language and speech 

- Talking is for **communicating** – getting the message across, engaging with others
- Starts with looking, smiling, pointing – non-verbal skills for commenting, requesting, answering
- Then words – **vocabulary** learning – working out meanings and saying the words
- Then sentences – **grammar** learning – stringing words together for more complex meanings
- Talking requires clear **speech** skills – takes time for all children




Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 8

The need - language learning for children with Down syndrome 


For most children with Down syndrome spoken language is delayed for mental age but they show an uneven profile:

- **Communication** skills are usually good
- **Vocabulary** is delayed but grows steadily
 - understanding is ahead of expression
- **Grammar** is more difficult
 - tend to be 'telegraphic' talkers, using key content words
 - understanding is ahead of expression
- Clear **Speech** is more difficult and means speech is difficult to understand (See and Learn Speech Program)



Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 9


Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

dse 

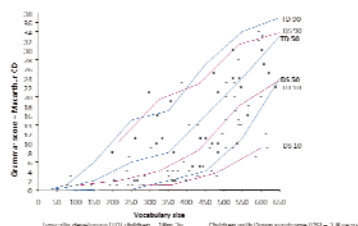
Vocabulary/grammar link – vocabulary matters

- Children with Down syndrome learn vocabulary more slowly and vocabulary paces progress to sentences
- First toddlers learn single words
- 50-100 words then they start to put 2 words together
- 200-250 words are needed before grammar starts to be used (possessive 's', plurals, tenses...)
- There will be many children with Down syndrome in preschool/kindergarten and primary/elementary schools who do not yet have 250 words in spontaneous spoken language
- Based on MacArthur CDI research

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 10


dse 

Vocabulary/grammar link - vocabulary matters



Pennyman, Buckley & Archer 2000 and since confirmed in research with Spanish, Swedish, Italian, US children with Down syndrome

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 11

dse 

Why this language profile?


- Hearing loss plays a part
- Difficulties with verbal short-term memory play a part
- Slow vocabulary learning may delay grammar
- We know nothing of early speech discrimination in children with Down syndrome
- We know very little about causes of speech-motor issues

What can we do?

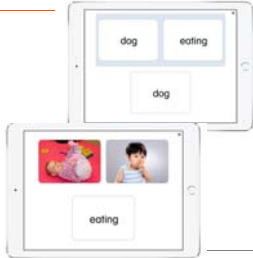
- Use visual supports – signs, pictures, books, print – to make language visual
- Maximise opportunities to learn words – more repetition

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 12


Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

See and Learn Language and Reading 


- Learning to talk from learning first words to using short sentences and early reading
- Designed to meet the specific learning needs of children with Down syndrome
- Builds on visual learning strengths
- Emphasizes visual presentation of language through reading
- Five steps now available, more under development




Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 13

See and Learn Language and Reading 


- Step-by-step support for two key areas of language development:
 - vocabulary development - the number of words a child knows
 - grammar development - a child's knowledge and skills in combining these words into sentences
- Record progress – record sheets provided – accurate records important
- UK and US English versions – all steps



Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 14

See and Learn First Vocabulary 1- New edition 
(replaces See and Learn First Word Pictures)


- For children who are ready to learn their first words
- Showing an understanding of objects and what they do, and may be attempting to communicate by babbling or using simple gestures
- Showing an interest in looking at photographs and pictures, such as in books



Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 15


Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

First Vocabulary 1 – App and kit versions



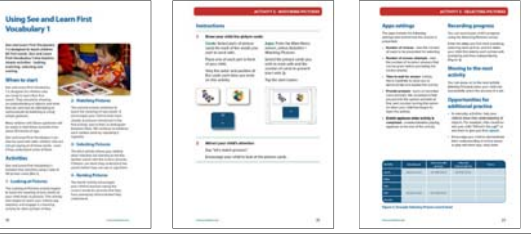
Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 16

First Vocabulary 1 Guide – example pages




Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 17

First Vocabulary 1 Guide – example pages




Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 18


Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

See and Learn First Vocabulary 1 

- Teaches 60 common first words using 48 pairs of picture cards – full list on website
- Words based on research on early vocabulary learning
- Designed for children who are at the first stage of learning language
- Four activities:
 - Activity 1 - Looking at Pictures
 - Activity 2 - Matching Pictures
 - Activity 3 - Selecting Pictures
 - Activity 4 - Naming Pictures



Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 19

Video clip – picture matching 


- Picture matching is illustrated in the next video clip
- Notice how much this little boy is enjoying the activity and how his mother is praising him
- This video and the ones that follow in this presentation were all filmed with children in our early intervention groups a few years ago when we were developing materials
- The examples of pictures, words and books are not the See and Learn materials though some are prototypes

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 20



Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading


See and Learn First Vocabulary - Record sheet examples



Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 22

See and Learn First Vocabulary 2


- Teaches a further 60 first words using 52 pairs of picture cards – list on website
- Designed for children who understand 50 to 60 words and say or sign 10 or more words.
- Children who have completed See and Learn First Vocabulary 1 will be ready to start See and Learn First Vocabulary 2.
- Many children with Down syndrome will reach this stage by about 24 months, but rates of progress vary widely - some children will reach this stage earlier, some later.
- Can also be used with older children who are not yet saying all of these words even if they understand them.



Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 23


See and Learn First Vocabulary 3


- Teaches a further 60 first words using 54 pairs of picture cards – see website
- For children who understand 80 to 120 words and say or sign 20 or more words.
- Children who have completed See and Learn First Vocabulary steps 1 and 2 will be ready to start See and Learn First Vocabulary 3.
- Many children with Down syndrome will reach this stage by about 30 months - some children will reach this stage earlier, some later.
- Can also be used with older children who are not yet saying all of these words even if they understand them.



Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 24


Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

See and Learn Vocabulary bundle available 




- These 3 kits have materials, instructions and activities to teach some 180 first words that children learn
- The vocabulary is based on the MacArthur Communicative Development Inventories (CDI)
- The vocabulary is also included in DSE Vocabulary Checklists 1 and 2.


Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 25

See and Learn First Phrases 1 – new edition 


- (Was See and Learn First Written Words)
- Teaches children to join two words together (2 keyword stage of language development)
- Introduces early reading – teaching 16 sight words used in 40 phrases
- 8 books to practice examples of 4 different phrase types



Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 26

See and Learn First Phrases 1 

- See and Learn First Phrases 1 is designed for children who:
- understand at least 50 words, including some nouns and some verbs
- can say or sign some of the words that they understand
- can follow two-keyword instructions – for example, “wash dolly” or “put teddy to bed” in a play situation
- Children who have completed the activities in [See and Learn First Vocabulary 1](#) should be ready to start the activities in See and Learn First Phrases 1



Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 27

Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

Teaching reading to teach talking

- See and Learn First Phrases are designed to teach children to join words together
- Teaches a range of two key word utterances – as used by all children
- Teaching children with Down syndrome to read since 1980
- Many children are able to learn to read words from 2-3 years old
- We can teach them to read the words they need for talking
- We can support the teaching and practice of saying words and sentences with the books in First Phrases 1,2, 3 and in Sentences and Grammar 1,2,3 for children who are not yet remembering the printed words

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 28


See and Learn First Phrases 1 Guide – example pages

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 29

See and Learn First Phrases 1 Guide – example pages

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 30

Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

dse 

Video clips – early word reading

- The next video clips illustrate young children learning to read sight words – from under 3 to 4 years of age
- The first two clips show children matching words
- The next clip shows selecting words – showing she is now able to identify the right printed word with no picture prompts
- The fourth clip shows naming – this little boy is reading each word and posting it
- The children may not always be easy to understand – until you have listened to them more than once
- Note that mums are quietly prompting success and keeping children on task – errorless learning approach

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 31






Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading





Video clips – reading comprehension

- We ensure that children understand what they read from the start – reading words and putting with the correct picture from a choice of pictures and then the same with reading sentences
- The first video clip shows the child reading 2 keyword sentences and then choosing the right picture from a choice
- He has to read both the key words in the sentence correctly in order to choose the correct picture
- See a similar comprehension example from First Phrases on the app illustration
- In the second video clip the child matches words, reads the sentence and shows comprehension with her signs then acting out the meaning with toys



Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 36

Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading





Video clips – book reading dse


- In the first clip, the child reads a book that has the same phrases in as a book in First Phrases – possessive phrases
- E.g. "Whose ball?" "Dogs ball"
- In the second clip the child is reading from a personal book his mother has made for him
- We are providing reading activities in See and Learn Language and Reading to provide a range of examples and to carefully link reading to language development
- We hope that it will encourage you to develop more materials at each level of difficulty using examples from your child's own world

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 39

Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading






See and Learn First Phrases - record sheet examples 


| Matching Sight Words record | | Reading Sight Words record | | Understanding Phrases record | |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------------------------|------|------------------------------|------------|
| Word | Matched | Word | Read | Phrase | Understood |
| the | | the | | the cat | |
| is | | is | | is brown | |
| cat | | cat | | cat brown | |
| brown | | brown | | cat brown | |
| cat brown | | cat brown | | cat brown | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 42


Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

See and Learn Sentences and Grammar 1 – new edition
(was See and Learn First Written Sentences) 

- Teaches children in understanding and using simple sentences containing three 'key' words and to read an additional 16 words
- Four books to read and practise sentences
- for readers and those not yet reading
- Uses reading to support language learning
- Four activities to teach reading:
 - Matching Words
 - Selecting Words
 - Naming Words
 - Matching Words and Sentences to Pictures- to ensure reading with comprehension




Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 43

See and Learn Language and Reading – links
between steps 

- The **See and Learn First Vocabulary** steps introduce children to their first words at the earliest stage of language development in approximate developmental order. Each step is also designed to teach the vocabulary needed for a corresponding See and Learn First Phrases step.
- The **See and Learn First Phrases** steps teach children to put spoken words together in a range of two key word phrases and to read their first sight words and phrases.
- The **See and Learn Sentences and Grammar** steps teach children to put spoken words together in longer sentences and use grammatical markers, including plurals, personal pronouns, past tenses, conjunctions, prepositions, negatives and question forms. These steps also continue to teach children to read sight words and sentences.


Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 44

See and Learn Language and Reading – new steps
coming soon 

- The **See and Learn Vocabulary and Sight Words** steps teach further vocabulary - introducing new spoken words using picture activities and then teaching the corresponding sight words. New language is introduced in developmental order and in themed sets designed to help children develop knowledge networks and understand categories.
- The **See and Learn Letters and Sounds** and **See and Learn Blending** steps introduce children to phonics. See and Learn Letters and Sounds teaches children to begin to identify the sounds in words (phonological awareness) and to understand letter sound links. See and Learn Blending teaches children how work out an unfamiliar word when reading by 'sounding out' the letters and then combining the sounds (blending) to identify the word.

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 45

Introducing See and Learn Language and Reading

Working with Speech and Language Therapist 

- If your child has a Speech and Language Therapist then they will be able to support you and guide you in the use of the See and Learn Speech and See and Learn Language and Reading programs.
- However, in many parts of the world, children do not have access to speech and language therapy or expert advice
- Therefore, we have designed all our See and Learn programmes so that a parent, carer, nursery nurse, preschool teacher or assistant, teacher or classroom assistant can use the materials and work effectively to support children's development.

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 46

Further information 

- See and Learn web site: <http://www.seeandlearn.org/>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/seeandlearn>
- Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/seeandlearn>

- To purchase Kits
- UK store: <http://store.dseenterprises.org/>
- US store: <http://store.dseusa.org/>

Copyright © Down Syndrome Education International 47
