Speech and language intervention in Down syndrome

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This text provides speech and language therapists and language researchers with a state–of–the–art review covering all aspects of speech and language development in individuals with Down syndrome. Written by leading experts in the field, it includes chapters on: the principles which should guide intervention; prelinguistic development; pragmatics and communication; literacy and language; augmentative communication; intervention with adolescents and adults; maintenance of skills for older adults; and a perspective on pertinent issues. Each chapter summarizes research and provides guidelines for effective interventions. This book should be a valuable guide to those working in the field who wish to be able to provide evidence–based interventions for individuals with Down syndrome and to contribute to their quality of life by improving their communication skills.

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Speech and language are complex and present many challenges to the child with Down syndrome that need to be addressed through a comprehensive approach to speech and language treatment. There have been major historical, legislative, and financial influences on speech and language services and service delivery for children with Down syndrome; these are summarized below.

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND. The Education for All Handicapped Children Act (Public Law 94-142) was passed in 1975 and resulted in special education services in separate classrooms as the model for helping children with disabilities. Strengths and challenges, assessment, and intervention research are discussed in relation to each speech and language area. © 1996 Wiley-Liss, Inc. Do you want to read the rest of this article? Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, specific language impairment, and Williams syndrome. This paper describes the specific pattern of linguistic deficits in each of these disorders in terms of speech production, semantic, and syntactic abilities as well as the relationship between cognitive and linguistic skills and the presence of a deviant or delayed pattern of development. Speech production in Down’s syndrome is highly variable, with particular problems arising from complex articulations such as fricatives.