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Reading Our Way - Beginner Kit, Down Syndrome Association of Queensland Incorporated., Down Syndrome Association of Queensland Incorporated., 2012, , . .

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Reading Our Way™ - A Visual Approach to Teaching Literacy is designed to be used by parents and educators to support early reading and word recognition for students with Down syndrome. Reading Our Way is based on research which suggests that students with Down syndrome learn to read best via the whole word approach to reading. The program consists of five stages, each with its own kit.

My future: my life is an opportunity for anyone in years 11 and 12 at a Queensland Secondary School who has a disability to apply for some financial assistance to help them with their transition from school to life after school. For more information you can visit www.myfuturemylife.com.au or call the my future: my life team on 1300 697 526.

Reading Our Way is an exciting new reading program that has been designed to teach early reading and word recognition to children and adults who have strong visual-memory skills and therefore learn best through the whole-word approach to learning to read. The program has been developed by the Down Syndrome Association of Queensland, based on the latest research into reading instruction and the learning profile of people with Down syndrome.

The teaching of reading can often be a difficult task when working with students with special needs. Many existing programs focus on learning to read using phonetics alone however research has shown this approach to be challenging for students with Down syndrome. Research has shown that people with Down syndrome have strong visual memory skills, and therefore will benefit to learn to read using the whole-word approach. The program is based heavily on research identifying the strengths of our students and builds upon these strengths to assist them in early word identification and reading.

There are many programs and methods used to teach reading. If a student has not been successful in a particular program, it does not mean that they are unable to learn to read, it simply means that previous programs did not meet their needs as a learner. Every individual is unique and will respond to different approaches and strategies when learning to read.

Reading Our Way is has been designed so that everything is included to implement the program. Teaching manuals, word cards, matching mats, reading books, worksheets, resource CDs - absolutely everything that is required to implement the program has been supplied, making it ideal for teachers (and parents). This will allow learning to read to become a reality for all children with Down syndrome.

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