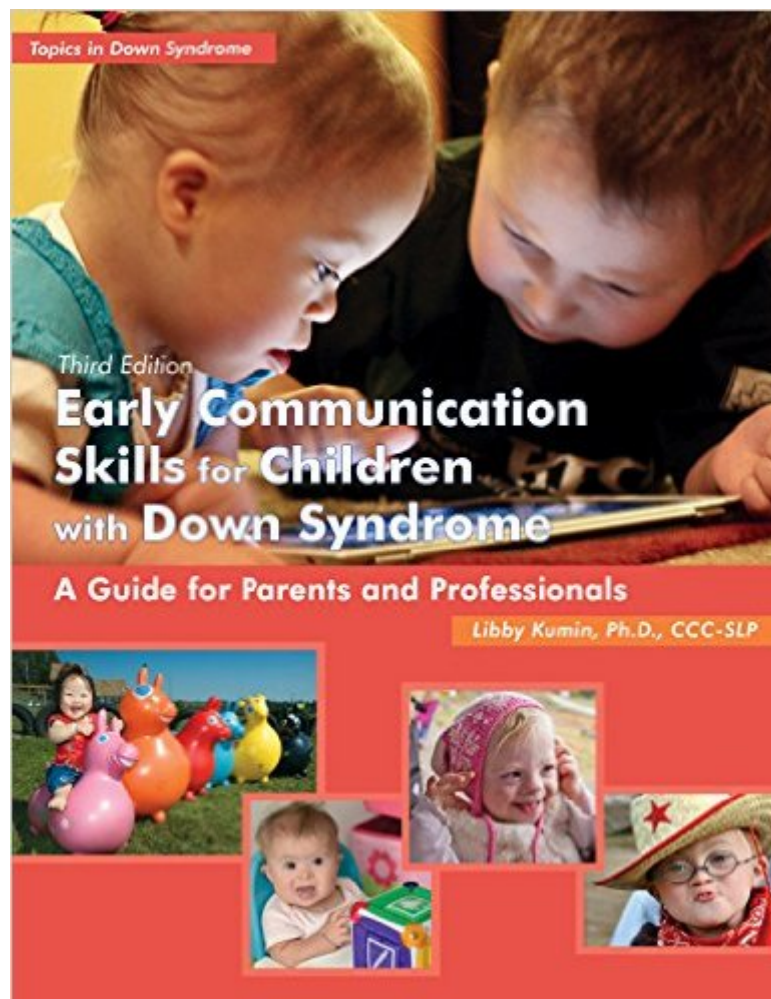


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# Early Communication Skills For Children With Down Syndrome: A Guide For Parents And Professionals (Topics In Down Syndrome)



## Synopsis

Newly revised and updated, this compassionate and authoritative guide is based on Libby Kumin's thirty years of experience of working with children and adolescents with Down syndrome and their families. Dr Kumin draws on her vast experience to show parents how they can support and encourage their child's speech and language development from birth to age 6 (or when a child can form 2- to 3-word sentences). Parents and teachers learn how to work through characteristic challenges, including hearing loss, intelligibility issues, apraxia (difficulty planning oral-motor movements), or a slower pace of development. Families soon see that many children with Down syndrome are natural and willing communicators. In a warm and conversational style, the author shares her professional expertise in parent-friendly terms. She uses specific examples of difficulties and successes to illustrate the concepts behind speech and language development, and includes the latest research supporting current early intervention and pre-school approaches that can be used at home and in schools. This third edition features expanded information on the needs of children with apraxia, dual diagnosis of autism and Down syndrome, and updated terminology and information on special education law. An expanded chapter explains how technology and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) can help with speech and language, foster communication, and provide inexpensive transitional language systems. And there's an online supplement of over 30 helpful forms! Use these for assessment, developing treatment plans, and keeping detailed records of progress. Teachers, speech-language pathologists, and parents will appreciate the forms and organizing information for IEP meetings or periodic evaluations. Find these forms through a link on the book's page on the publisher's website, [woodbinehouse.com](http://woodbinehouse.com)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As the grandparent of a child who has a rare kind of Down Syndrome--Mosaicism--I want to help him develop his communication skills as much as he can. A Mosaic is a child with Down Syndrome where the cells are not all affected with the T-21 chromosome abnormality. I found this book several years ago and purchased it and ended up giving it to one of his preschool teachers. I repurchased the book to review activities for DS kids that are exiting the toddler stage and entering Kindergarten. This is an excellent resource for those trying to teach a Down Syndrome language, speech and communication. The book is written so that a parent/grandparent/teacher can understand it, but contains facts and research to back up many of the suggestions (the academic component). Most of the reviews of the book so far are very brief. Here is a listing of the chapters to help you decide if you want to purchase the book and if it will be helpful to your child: PLEASE NOTE; AFTER the lengthy chapter listings and CD-Rom summary--you can read my thoughts on some of the content. Just scroll past the chapters if you want get to those thoughts right away.

Chapter 1: Language, Speech, and Communication  
Chapter 2: Speech and Language Characteristics of Children with Down Syndrome  
Chapter 3: Busy Baby--Busy Parents  
Chapter 4: Before the First Word--Precursors to Language  
Chapter 5: The One-Word Stage  
Chapter 6: The Two-and Three-Word Stages  
Chapter 7: Meaning and Grammar  
Chapter 8: Speech and Intelligibility Problems  
Chapter 9: Articulation and Phonology: Learning the Sounds of Language  
Chapter 10: Pragmatics: Communication in Action  
Chapter 11: Communicating without Speech  
Chapter 12: Understanding Speech and Language Evaluation  
Chapter 13: Understanding Speech and Language Treatment  
Chapter 14: Reading, Literacy, and Language  
Chapter 15: School and Community Issues  
Chapter 16: Concluding Thought

Appendices: Communication Evaluation Guidelines for SLPs: For children with Down Syndrome  
Speech and Language Referral Guidelines for Pediatricians  
Early Intervention Speech and Language Treatment Program Planning Form  
Developing a Transitional Communication System  
Comprehensive Speech and Language Treatment Guidelines for Children with Down Syndrome from birth to six years  
Speech and Language Treatment Program Planning Form: First Word to Age 6  
Speech Intelligibility Evaluation Summary Form for children with Down Syndrome  
Speech Intelligibility Treatment Program Plan for Children with Down Syndrome  
Record form for Articulation  
Resource Guide  
References and

Suggested Reading Children's Books for Language Stimulation Index With the 2012 edition there is a CD-ROM which contains: Forms for Recording Early Communication Milestones (11 forms) Forms for Developing Plans (3 forms) Forms for Evaluation (8 forms) Forms for Treatment Planning (9 forms) My thoughts: The author in the acknowledgements states "For many years, I have worked with infants, toddlers, children, adolescents, and adults with Down syndrome and their families... There is still a great deal to be done to ensure that people with Down syndrome, at all ages, are able to communicate and live a fulfilling life, and I intend to continue to work for that goal." This book is a result of Libby Kumin's efforts to reach that goal and if you have a Down Syndrome child it will help you help them with communication, language and speech. I will admit upfront that I have not read the entire book. I have used chapters and pieces of it to help my grandson's language skills. Communication for anyone is a critical skill and the techniques that Kumin describes and uses will help a DS child increase their chance for success in communicating their needs and become a person who can interact with others. The first chapter details what communication is and gives you some ideas for finding a qualified speech pathologist. The second chapter, while talking about each child developing at their own pace, contains a really nice chart of the Development of Early Communication Skills in children with Down Syndrome. This is what I like about the book--the simplicity for us non-academics. For instance the chart is very easy to understand and the author includes the corresponding research that supports the fact. So if you don't believe it--you can find the research! Children with DS often having hearing issues and the author addresses this as well as physical characteristics of the muscles/structure of the facial area followed by a chart that shows how each characteristic can affect speech and language. Each chapter is packed with understandable information on speech and how to teach a DS child to formulate words, to "think" about communicating and to the like. The author gives many suggestions in working with a DS child and how to slip learning into every day activities. For instance in Chapter 8/Speech and Intelligibility problems Kumin discusses the factors for affecting intelligibility and gives lists of home activities (in many of the chapters) to help your child speak clearly. There are many activities to choose from and you can pick and choose those that work best for your child. DS kids range from severely impaired to "almost normal" with some of the Mosaics. Some of the children will obviously learn more quickly than others so I feel the author is doing a great service to those of us who are teaching DS kids language skills by providing us with lots of ideas, activities and information that can be tailored to our individual children. The forms in the back of the book and on the CD are great for tracking your child's progress. If your child is in school then you know how complicated and lengthy the IEP's can be--this is much more simple. You can pick and choose the forms you want to use to follow your

child's progress. The back of the book provides resources for help which are mainly the larger DS and other organizations that deal with disabilities. The suggested readings are mainly references (lots of academic speak). The very last appendix is a list of children's books to help with language development. They are grouped by subject, i.e., Single word objects, Two word books, Finger Play, Manipulatives, Predictable Phrases, TV characters, colors, semantics/vocabulary and more. These are books that are easy to find at a library or bookstore and if you have kids you may already own many of them. Having a child with a disability can be exhausting, but some of this exhaustion comes from trying to communicate. Are you hurt? Are you hungry? What do you want? Simple things a "normal" child can tell you easily, but a child with speech issues cannot. This book provides the means and techniques to help maximize your child's communication skills. Even, if like me, you don't use the entire book--it is worth every penny if you can find even one nugget of information that will help you help your child. And to be honest I can't imagine how you could not find more than one nugget. I do want to emphasize that many of the home techniques are easy to incorporate into your daily activities. Many are activities that we do automatically for a child without DS, but don't think about doing the many simplistic repetitions of for a DS child. A lot of what you can do to help your child with speech is just constantly and consistently (i.e. use the same words) talk to them about "things." There is so much in this book that unless you are a professional speech therapist you can get overwhelmed. Don't be. Just take what you can and incorporate it into your daily life with your child. You will see an improvement. I have...and I'm only with him three or four days a week. I have enlisted the entire family for many of the activities and when we all work together we see a lot of improvement!

Dr. Kumin is an SLP with a national reputation in the area of Down Syndrome. I relied on this book to formulate an intervention plan and shared the reference with the rest of the team. It was just what we needed.

Ms. Kumin has very extensive knowledge. Great book for reference and practical tips. Learn the skills necessary to be the best parent of a special needs kiddo!

More for parents than for professionals. Very parent-friendly.

Great for professional as well as for parents. Easy to understand and great examples

Awesome book! Very informative!

Great book to share appreciation for differences in children!

Very informative and resourceful.

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