

## [DownsEd USA announces US Education and Research Center](#)



**Down Syndrome Education USA has announced plans for the first Down Syndrome Education and Research Center based in the USA. Building on successful, evidence-based programs, the new center will offer education programs and resources to children with Down syndrome, their families and education professionals across the USA. The center will also conduct and sponsor scientific research focused on practical ways to support cognitive development, language, literacy and math teaching for young people who have Down syndrome.**

[DownsEd USA](#) has announced plans for the first Down Syndrome Education and Research Center based in the USA. The new center will be a joint venture with the [Down Syndrome Foundation of Orange County](#) and will accommodate expansion of the Foundation's highly successful [Learning Program](#). The center will be based in Orange County, California and is expected to open in early 2009.

The new center will offer educational support to families through the Learning Program and will develop evidence-based, educational programs that families across the US will be able to use to assist the children's development. These programs will be freely accessible online. DownsEd USA will also develop resources to help other Down syndrome organizations to provide effective preschool and school education support.

Dana Halle, Co-Founder of the Down Syndrome Foundation of Orange County and CFO of Down Syndrome Education USA, commented "We are thrilled to be expanding our Learning Program and teaming up with DownsEd USA to further develop educational programs to help children in California and across the United States. The Learning Program is already being adopted enthusiastically by groups across the country, including in Missouri, New Mexico and Florida, and coming soon to Texas, Massachusetts and Virginia. Working with DownsEd USA will help us reach many more families and educators."

Joan Medlen, Project Director of Creating Solutions and Vice President of Down Syndrome Education USA, said "It is exciting to see DownsEd USA getting established and offering expertise and evidence-based approaches to parents, teachers and therapists. Quite a lot is understood about effective ways to promote development and learning for young people with

Down syndrome. By offering resources online for free, DownsEd USA is working hard to ensure everyone can benefit."

The new center will also house a specialist mail order service offering recommended educational resources through a new online store. Resources will include recommended books, films and educational materials, including those published by Down Syndrome Education International – Down Syndrome Education USA's research and information partner.

DownsEd USA is also developing plans with scientists across the US for a broad program of basic research investigating the specific developmental and learning needs of people with Down syndrome and translational research testing interventions and teaching approaches in practice.

Professor Sue Buckley OBE, Vice-President of Down Syndrome Education USA and Director of Science and Research at Down Syndrome Education International commented, "Scientists have learned a lot about the particular learning difficulties experienced by children with Down syndrome. This understanding has helped us to identify effective ways of helping young people with Down syndrome achieve more. We now know that early interventions tailored to their specific needs and continuing educational support can enable many people with Down syndrome to learn more than ever before, helping to prepare them for more independent and fulfilling adult lives. There is, however, still much to be done to understand the full range of learning needs and the most effective methods of support for all young people with Down syndrome."

[Down Syndrome Education International](#) is a recognized pioneer of scientific research investigating language, cognition, memory and speech development, literacy, numeracy, and education. Over 30 years, DownsEd International has delivered evidence-based educational approaches that today improve the lives of people living with Down syndrome in over 170 countries.

DownsEd USA's Orange County Down Syndrome Education and Research Center is expected to open in early 2009.

Down Syndrome Education USA is a nonprofit organization and is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations, gifts and other contributions are tax deductible for US taxpayers.

- DownsEd USA can accept donations online at <http://www.downsed-usa.org/donate/>
- For further information about DownsEd USA, please visit <http://www.downsed-usa.org/>