Educational Seminars
Each year DSG will host educational events with national and local speakers to draw families and educational professionals to learn from experts in the field of education. We have featured topics such as “Teaching Reading to Children With Down syndrome”, “Oral Motor Therapy for Children with Down syndrome”, “Inclusion”, “Positive Behavior Supports” and more. Each year DSG will host educational events to draw families and educational professionals to learn from experts in the field of education.

Tailored Trainings for Schools
When requested, DSG also offers paraprofessional and teacher trainings to school districts. Trainings can be as short as 30 minutes or as long as 3 hours based on what the school is asking DSG to cover.

Common topics for presentations include:
- Down Syndrome 101 (for teachers, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, educational team)
- Effective Behavior Management Techniques
- Motivating and Engaging Learners with Down Syndrome
- Curriculum Adaptations & Modifications
- Creating a Social Life for Students
- Down Syndrome Specific Curriculums & Resources
- Eloquence and Down Syndrome
- Effective Teaching Practices

Peer Presentations
DSG understands the importance of peer relationships in the classroom and sometimes the need to foster a deeper understanding of the needs a classmate with Down syndrome might have in the general education setting. DSG offers personalized or general peer presentations to classrooms to help educate and answer questions classmates might have about Down syndrome.

Depending on age level, the peer presentation can show the film “Just Like You—Down Syndrome” or read the book “Taking Down Syndrome to School.” Both the film and book identify many similarities between students with and without Down syndrome. It also identifies some of the differences that peers with Down syndrome may have due to low muscle tone, speech and communication needs or physical and cognitive stamina as related to Down syndrome.

Students are encouraged to ask questions and to participate in hands on activities that will help them understand what it may be like to have Down syndrome. Families who provide photos and stories can also receive a personalized copy of the Myths and Truths about Down syndrome which can go home in each child’s back pack to educate their parents.
HOW DOES THE DOWN SYNDROME GUILD OF KANSAS CITY HELP FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS?

Down Syndrome Specialist Program
Our Parents and Schools in Partnership Program launched in 2005 and promotes collaborative relationships between DSG and local school districts to effect positive outcomes for students with Down syndrome and their families. Special Education Directors are invited to breakfasts during the year to learn more about DSG and community resources that benefit their district and the students with Down syndrome.

A significant education connection is made as directors are encouraged to designate a staff person within the district to be the DSG Down Syndrome Specialist. The DSG Down Syndrome Specialist receives a resource binder, free registration to DSG sponsored educational events, DSG mailings and regular updates on research and best practices. They are also invited to breakfasts throughout the year to share feedback with DSG on their district’s unique needs. In some instances DSG provides individualized consultation and training for districts in need. DSG proudly partners with 45 school districts who have named Down Syndrome Specialists. DS Specialist input is integral to DSG’s continued development of the website to add information and educational resources for families and schools to access.

Awareness Materials
DSG also provides awareness materials such as posters, pamphlets, bookmarks, and stickers to anyone requesting them. It has been said that “a picture is worth a thousand words”. DSG will continue to disseminate positive materials with positive affirmations to create broader awareness of Down syndrome.

Book Bundles
Unfortunately, many libraries, schools and hospitals have inaccurate and outdated resources on Down syndrome—or worse, don’t have any information at all. In recognition of October being National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, DSG is selling book bundles at a greatly reduced price. We need your help to stock shelves with accurate information and portrayals of people with Down syndrome. You can help “spread the word” and celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month by purchasing and donating bundles.

DSG celebrates National Inclusive Schools Week in December of each year. Packets will be sent to local school districts with information on Inclusion, posters, and materials for creative ways to support an inclusive educational setting.

DSG launched an award winning newsletter in 2005 called “Inclusion Solutions”. This newsletter is designed for educators to assist them in their efforts to support students with Down syndrome. The newsletter will go out regularly throughout the year and address a variety of things from behavioral support, communication helps, people first language, curriculum adaptation, stories submitted by teachers and paras, and information on how schools can request presentations by DSG.

All About Me Booklet
Want to get to know your student with Down syndrome better? Invite your student’s parents to complete DSG’s All About Me Booklet (elementary) or All About Me Booklet (intermediate) so you will understand the best way to engage your student. You might also consider a Peer Presentation to help the students understand more about their fellow student who has Down syndrome.