

# A language intervention for children with Down syndrome

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## Who are we looking for

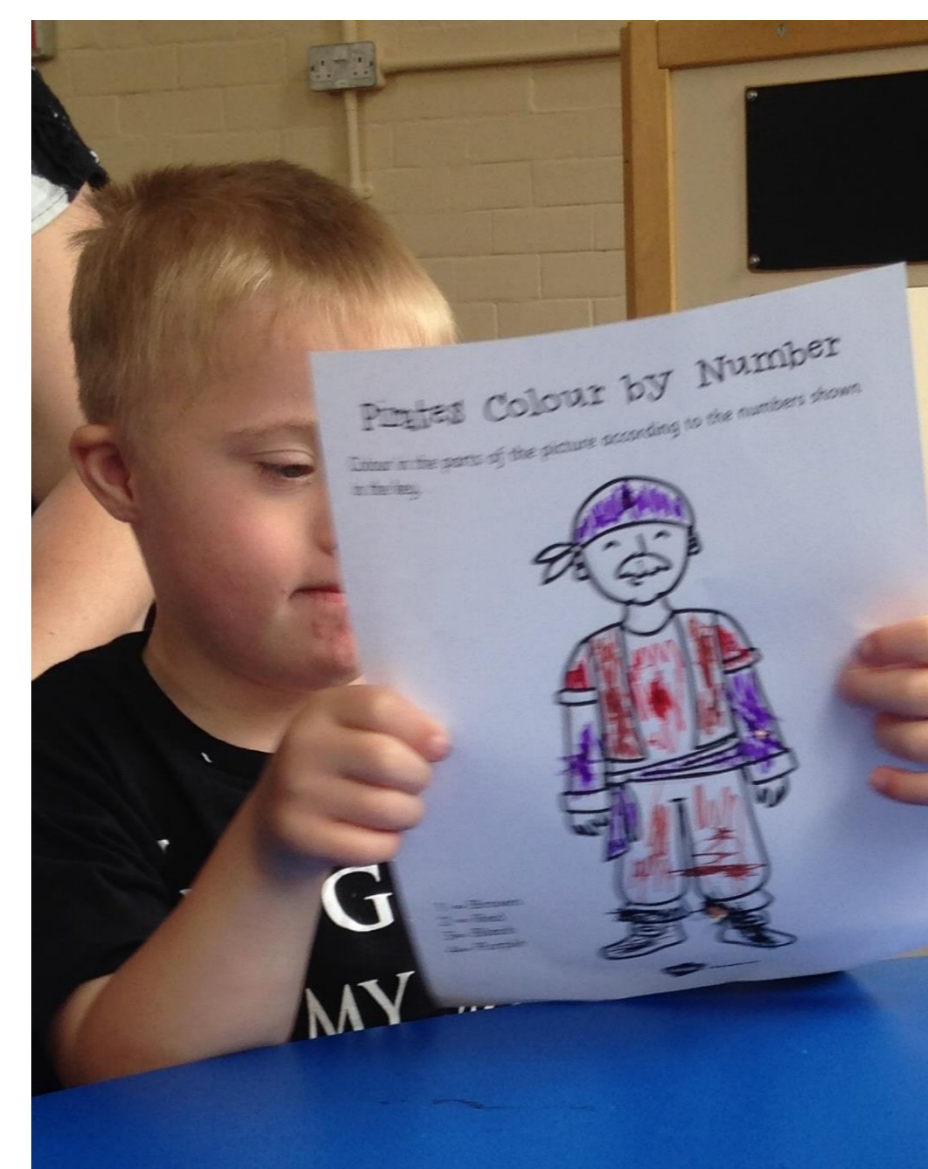
- Children who have Down syndrome and are in mainstream school Years 3-6 (7-11 years of age)
  - are combining 2 or more words in their spoken language
  - have English as their first language
- I am looking to recruit a further 40 children with Down syndrome to participate in the project. 32 children took part last year (academic year 2016-2017) and we are looking to recruit the same number or more again to take part in the project this year (2017-2018)
- I am looking for pupils across Hampshire and the surrounding borders to take part in the study. Last year we had schools from Hampshire, Surrey, West Sussex and Berkshire.

## What is the purpose of the study?

- Many children with Down syndrome have specific difficulties with expressive language – being able to put sentences together and use grammar accurately
- One of the areas reported to be of specific difficulty for children with Down syndrome is the use of regular past tense for example jumped, splashed.
- This project aims to evaluate whether a language intervention targeting the use of the regular past tense using visual strategies can be effective.



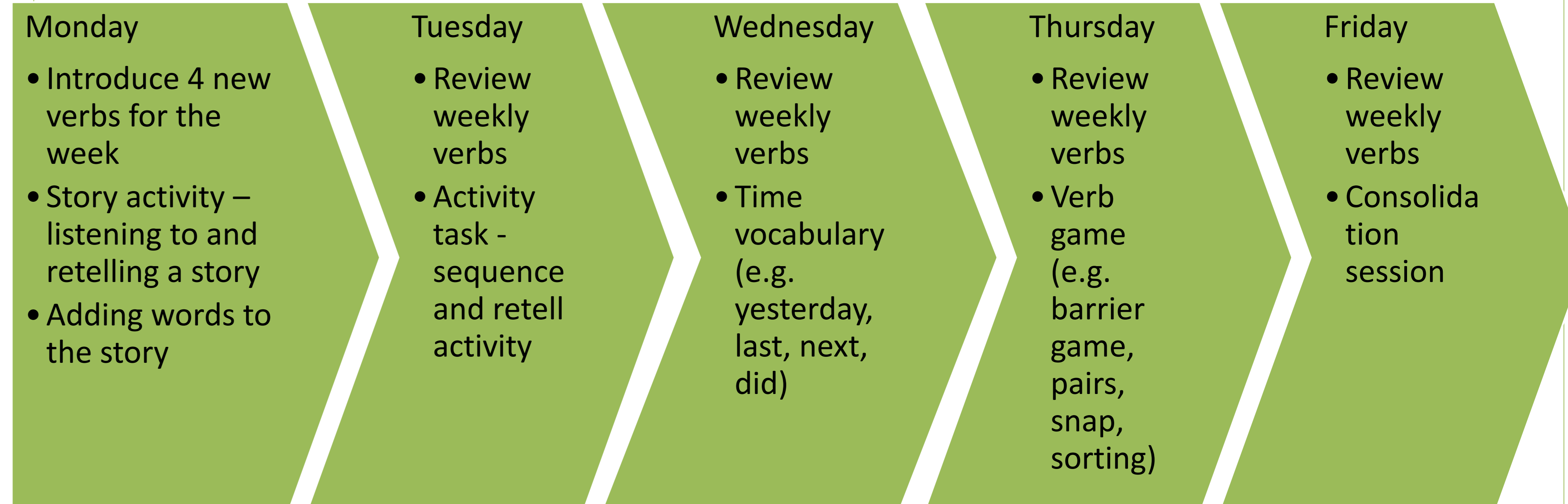
The boy **is** colouring



The boy coloured

## The intervention

- The intervention is a 10 week programme working on past tense
- Activities will be delivered by schools in daily 20 min sessions
- Teaching assistants will be trained on the intervention and given a manual with resources. They will also be supported by a speech and language therapist who specialises in Down syndrome.
- The speech and language therapist will visit the school every 2 weeks for the 10 week block to support staff and adapt the intervention to meet individual needs
- The intervention follows a weekly structure introducing 4 new verbs every week in a range of activities shown below



## If you would like to take part:

- If you are interested in taking part in the study and would like more information please contact us using the contact details below.
- If you know of someone who you think might be interested in taking part please pass on this information and the contact details below.

## Please contact us on:

- Please email Becky Baxter [rbaxter@letsgouk.org](mailto:rbaxter@letsgouk.org)
- Or telephone Becky 07712 400966