**FAIR PLAY**

**1. Warm up -** Look at the suggested types of toys and answer the questions.

**cars dolls lego blocks soft toys**

1. Did you have any of these types of toys when you were little?

2. Which was your favourite type of toy?

3. Can you remember how you played with it?

4. How are toys important for children’s development?

**2. Read for main idea - You are going to read an article called, "Equality is child’s play". What do you think the article will be about?**

Skim the article and check your ideas. Then work in pairs to remember why these numbers were important in the article.

1. 21

2. 800

3. 10

4. 38

5. 2020

6. 2019

Scan the article to check your ideas.

**Equality is child’s play**

**Toys point the way to inclusion**

1. On 21 March every year, the United Nations in New York and Geneva hosts a meeting to ensure the human rights of people with Down syndrome. This year the theme of World Down Syndrome Day is "We decide", and activities and discussions will focus on supporting people with Down syndrome in making their own life decisions.

2. Down syndrome (also known as Trisomy 21) is a genetic difference which affects around 1 in 800 births. It is caused by extra copies of genes on chromosome 21 and results in growth delays, problems with memory, planning and decision-making, and sometimes heart and digestive problems.

3. In the past, children with Down syndrome usually grew up away from their families in institutions and were not offered an education. Average life expectancy was low, just 10 years in 1960 (it is now around 50). Inclusion in mainstream society was practically zero - people with Down syndrome were largely absent from everyday life.

4. Today, children with Down syndrome enjoy a much higher quality of life, living with their families, attending local schools and, when they grow up, living and working independently. However, there is still a need for advocacy for them to achieve greater social inclusion. Now toymakers are getting involved, by introducing dolls with Down syndrome.

5. The Miniland company has created boy and girl dolls with Down syndrome facial features in a range of hair and skin colours. Miniland is based in the "toy town" of Onil, in Spain. There are 38 toymakers in Onil, and the town’s doll museum has a history of using dolls to promote social progress, with programmes that stock toy libraries in health centres and promote English education in schools.

6. The Miniland dolls won the "Toy of the Year" award in Spain in 2020. Kmart has also introduced a similar range of dolls with Down syndrome in Australia and New Zealand.

7. Dolls are a powerful tool to shape attitudes about Down syndrome. When children play with dolls, they are using their imagination and telling stories. Children play with dolls in different ways at different times: they may be practising caring for others or expressing how they see themselves. Either way, these dolls allow all children to see people with Down syndrome as beautiful, valued and worthy of love.

8. The trend for inclusion in toys also includes dolls with disabilities who use wheelchairs or have prosthetic limbs, both introduced by Mattel in 2019. Companies are responding to demand from parents and children who want to support the values of integration and equality in children’s play from an early age. The feeling is that it’s time to normalise all kinds of differences because people are not all the same.

9. One mother reported that her daughter, who has Down syndrome, was absolutely delighted with her Miniland doll, saying "She’s just like me!". The more people with Down syndrome become visible, the more they will be able to enjoy the same freedoms and opportunities as everyone else.

**3 Vocabulary -** Find words in the article in bold which have these meanings.

1. public support and action to help a specific person or group of people:

2. illnesses, injuries or other conditions that make it difficult for people to move around or fully join in with everyday life:

3. the right of different types of people to receive the same treatment:

4. being fully included in society; the idea that all people should have the same opportunities and enjoy the same experiences:

5. places where children, old people or sick people are sent to be cared for away from home:

6. the act of joining in with a group of people:

7. referring to the way most people think:

8. change the way people see difference, so that it does not seem unusual or strange to them:

9. seen and noticed by society:

10. good enough to receive love, support and respect:

**Answer the questions about these words.**

1. What do we call a person who provides **advocacy** to someone?

2. What is the adjective for **disability**?

3. What are the opposites of **inclusion** and **visible**?

4. **Inclusion** and **integration** are similar ideas. How are they different?

5. What noun follows **mainstream** in the text, to make a common collocation?

6. What preposition follows **worthy**?

**4. Read for detail -** Work in pairs and find the answers to your questions in the article. Get ready to explain the answer to your partner in your own words.

**Student A**

1. What’s the focus of this year’s Down Syndrome Day?

2. How has life for people with Down syndrome changed over the last 60 years?

3. What’s special about the town of Onil?

4. In what way has the company Mattel supported inclusion?

**Student B**

1. Is Down syndrome a serious condition?

2. How many companies have created dolls with Down syndrome?

3. What are the different ways that children play with dolls?

4. Who is driving the demand for inclusive toys?

**5. Read the sentence below and pay attention to its structure.**

**The more** people with Down syndrome become visible, **the more** they will be able to enjoy the same freedoms and opportunities as everyone else.

**Finish the sentences below using the same structure.**

The more a child plays with dolls, the more/less ...

The more parents ask companies to provide different types of dolls, the more/less ...

The more inclusive society becomes, the more/less ...

The less we see differences, ...

**6. Choose one of these options: a product development task or a discussion about issues related to toys and play.**

**Product development task**

Work in pairs or small groups to develop a new toy that is socially inclusive.

• What type of toy is it?

• How is the toy socially inclusive?

• What is the name of the product?

• How will you market it? Think about the different messages that parents and children will want to hear. Use at least three words from the vocabulary.

Present your ideas to your classmates.

**7. Talking point - Discuss these questions in pairs or small groups.**

1. What’s your reaction to the Down syndrome doll?

2. How does your school, college, town or country promote inclusion for people with Down syndrome and other disabilities?

3. What could mainstream society do to improve inclusion?

4. How has children’s play changed over the last 50 years?

5. What do you think about advertising for toys that is aimed at children?

6. Do you think children have too many toys these days?