

## Jaw-strengthening Toy for Children with Down Syndrome

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**Categories:**

- Education

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- Children
- Down syndrome
- Education

Down syndrome (DS) affects approximately 1 in every 700 children born in the U.S. Children with DS may experience mild to severe symptoms including poor muscle tone, protruding tongues, mild to moderate cognitive impairment, and a delay in language development. Despite these specialized developmental needs, there are currently little to no products on the market specifically designed for children with DS.

A Purdue University student has designed a toy specifically for children with DS. The toy is a jaw strengthening teether with biting pads that encourage the child to bite down as well as guiding them to keep the tongue inside the mouth. It is equipped with special attention-grabbing features such as bright colors, lights, fun textures, and music.

**Advantages:**

- Fun and attention-grabbing
- Specifically designed for children with Down syndrome

**Potential Applications:**

- Help young children with Down syndrome strengthen jaw muscles

**People:**

- Ferrill, Hannah Maureen (Project leader)

**Intellectual Property:**

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**Type:** Utility Patent

**Country of Filing:** United States

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