



# Cuban Educators Thank Fidel Castro for the Education of Children with Down syndrome

Cuban educator Yoandra Perez Mendoza, resident of the city of Bayamo, thanked Commander in Chief Fidel Castro for the creation of special schools and a guarantee in the country for the comprehensive development and the social insertion of the children with Down Syndrome.

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Speaking to the Cuban News Agency, on World Down Syndrome Day, the teacher said that these educational centers do not establish differences among the students, and work in achieving progress with the children.

Perez Mendoza, Director of the Graciela Bustillos Special School, located in the eastern city, pointed out that the center has 62 students of which 13 have Down syndrome.

She added that their students are from 6 to 18 years of age, and are generally very warm and sociable, get along with the others and enjoy the cultural activities.

Once the children enroll in the institution, an organized educational program is applied in stages favoring a slow incorporation of different useful abilities for their life.

The educator added that once they are 13 years of age they are taken to workshops centers where they learn skills, like domestic economy, arts and crafts, sewing and basic agricultural techniques.

She added that the center also works with children with brain paralysis, autism, Asperger and West Syndromes and other pathologies attended by specialized personnel made up by 41 Special Education specialists.

The UN General Assembly instituted on March 21st, 2011 World Down Syndrome Day to increase the public awareness on the dignity and social contribution to people with this disability.

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