

Supporting Your Child With Down Syndrome

Many new parents of children with Down syndrome have concerns about their child's future development. In fact, most of these children can do things that other children do, just at a later age. However, there is a wide range of what different children can do. Early treatment and a loving environment can help your child reach his or her greatest potential. Many adults with Down syndrome have regular jobs and live semi-independently in community group homes. They lead fulfilling lives, care for themselves, have meaningful friendships, hobbies, and participate in community life.

Speech

Children with Down syndrome have spoken language skills that lag behind their ability to understand. This is frustrating for children and causes behaviour problems. We can also underestimate the child's true capabilities.

Mathematics

Many children with Down syndrome have problems with math. Teachers and parents may use pictures, objects, and hand gestures as visual aids when teaching mathematics.

INTELLIGENCE
SUPPORT
LOVE
PRACTICE
PROGRESS

What To Do

Social Skills

Most babies with Down syndrome are quite social. They will continue to develop good social skills. Some children can have behavior problems.

Literacy

Many people with Down syndrome learn to read well.

Visual Aids

When possible, present new information with the support of pictures, gestures or objects.

Motor Skills

Babies with Down syndrome are slower to roll over, crawl, and walk. Babies need to explore in order to learn. Your child may need physical or occupational therapy to help with his or her motor development.



DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CHILD WITH DOWN SYNDROME

A PARENT'S BRIEF
GUIDE

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What Does Trisomy 21 Mean?

Your chromosomes are like the instruction manual for building your body. They carry the genes and DNA that make up your inherited traits. Most people have 23 pairs of

chromosomes, for a total of 46 chromosomes. Children with Down Syndrome have 3 chromosomes at position 21, instead of 2. That extra chromosome not only creates the physical characteristics of Down syndrome, but also causes many recognized developmental features of Down syndrome. By understanding these patterns we can devise more effective teaching approaches and therapies.