

CAN PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME LEARN?

Yes! People with Down syndrome can and do learn, but many need more time and extra help. Kids with Down syndrome can participate in all school activities inside and outside the classroom.

DO PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME GROW UP?

Yes. As grown ups, many people with Down syndrome have jobs, go to college, live by themselves, and contribute to their communities. People with Down syndrome bring energy, reliability, and dedication to whatever they do inside and outside the classroom.

WHAT DO I HAVE IN COMMON WITH SOMEONE THAT HAS DOWN SYNDROME?

Children with Down syndrome are really more like other children than they are different. They often participate in regular classrooms and are fully integrated into their community. People with Down syndrome have feelings just like anyone else. They experience the full range of emotions. They respond to positive expressions of friendship and are hurt and upset by inconsiderate behavior.

HOW CAN I HELP MY FRIEND WITH DOWN SYNDROME?

The best way to help your friend with Down syndrome is to play with and talk to them. If they are having trouble playing a game, give them time and extra help, or ask them what game they want to play. Be clear in what you are saying, find out what your friend likes to do, and just hang out together to see what happens. You will quickly find out that you are more alike than you are different.

MISSION STATEMENT:

Club 21 provides the educational tools and resources that enable individuals with Down syndrome to be fully included.

OUR END GOAL:

Individuals with Down syndrome will have the skills and support for a meaningful life of their choosing with:

- Opportunities for lifelong learning
- Independence/Interdependence
- Communities of Belonging
- Meaningful Employment



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Simple Answers to Kids'



(Not so simple) Questions About Down Syndrome



WHAT IS DOWN SYNDROME?

Down syndrome is a genetic condition caused by the presence of an extra chromosome 21 in the body's cell, it is not a disease. A person with Down syndrome is born with one extra chromosome in each of their cells. Instead of a pair of the 21st chromosome, they have three. That is a total of 47 chromosomes.



WHY DO I NEED THIS INFORMATION?

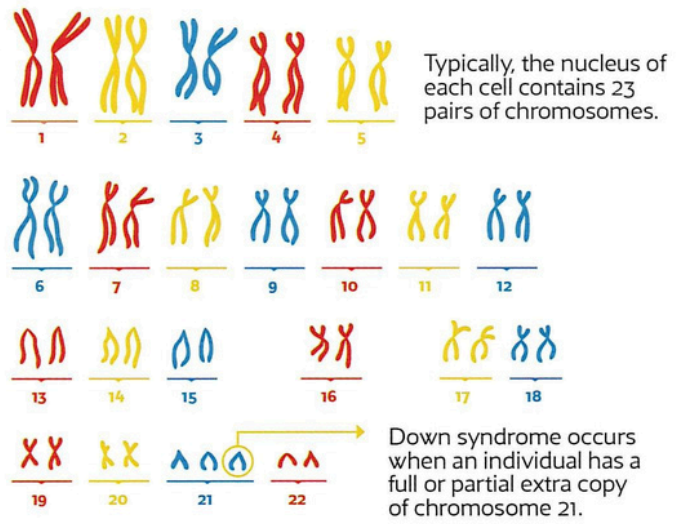
Including children with Down syndrome and other other disabilities in the general education classroom and beyond enriches the learning experience for ALL involved. Diversity and inclusion are key factors in a child's development and are fostered when everyone is allowed to participate in every aspect of education inside and outside of the classroom.

BUT KIDS HAVE QUESTIONS. PARENTS HAVE QUESTIONS.

Many of us do not have enough experience with individuals with Down syndrome to be able to give accurate information about their unique gifts and challenges. We hope that this information helps to dispel the myths and misinformation that are prevalent in our society.

WHY DO PEOPLE HAVE DOWN SYNDROME?

People with Down syndrome are born with one extra chromosome in some or all of their cells. Chromosomes contain the directions that tell your body how to grow. These directions tell your body what color your eyes and hair will be, how big your nose will be, whether you will be a good singer, and many other things. When a person has an extra chromosome, it mixes up their body's directions a little. This is why people with Down syndrome look a little different and learn in different ways. Nobody knows why some babies are born with Down syndrome, but we do know that it is nobody's fault.



WHY IS IT CALLED DOWN SYNDROME?

A doctor named John Langdon Down was the first to write about this condition, so the syndrome was named after him. It is not called that because we should be "down" or sad about it.



CAN DOWN SYNDROME BE TREATED?

Down syndrome is not a disease. Although it cannot be cured, medical professionals know more about it now than ever. Getting the best care early on can make a big difference for individuals with Down syndrome and improves the likelihood of a full and meaningful life.

WHY CAN'T MY FRIEND WITH DOWN SYNDROME TALK VERY WELL?

Due to low muscle tone, people with Down syndrome might be a little harder to understand. Sometimes kids with Down syndrome do not talk very much or may use sign language or an Assisted Technology Device to help them communicate. If you have a friend with Down syndrome and don't understand them, ask them to repeat themselves or show you what they mean. Often, they just need extra time and help.

