

The Down Syndrome Association of York Region

We are a group of parents, individuals with Down syndrome, educators and community support professionals who firmly believe in the inherent equality of persons with Down syndrome. We are committed to promoting a positive image of people with Down syndrome as being valued community members.

Our main goal is to support individuals with Down syndrome as they go about leading productive and fulfilling lives.

We do this by...

...**sharing information** through our website, our library, our phone line, our quarterly newsletter, and through guest speakers who are invited to discuss a wide range of topics;

...**welcoming new babies** born with Down syndrome through a home visit from one of our volunteers;

...**working closely with SEAC reps** who advocate for our children in the public and separate school systems;

...**offering special programs**, such as music therapy, Chatterboxes (speech, language, and occupational therapy), and a bowling league for teens and young adults;

...**sponsoring several social events** throughout the year so that we can get to know each other and have fun. *Knowing or being someone who has Down syndrome is an important thing ~ but it's not the only thing!*

Please feel free to contact us if we may be of service to you.

Phone: 416-410-DOWN (3696) or 1-800-649-3696

Website: www.dsayr.ca

E-mail: info@dsayr.ca

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[Please note that this is a mailing address only; the DSAYR does not have an office.]

Basic Facts About Down Syndrome

- ❖ People with Down syndrome have 46 normal chromosomes and 1 extra 21st chromosome. The extra chromosome may come from the sperm or the egg. The exact cause of Down syndrome is unknown.
- ❖ The incidence of Down syndrome is about 1 in every 900 live births.
- ❖ 80% of children with Down syndrome are born to women under 35 years of age.
- ❖ People do not *suffer* from Down syndrome. It is not an illness or an affliction.
- ❖ The variation in abilities, behaviour and physical development in those with Down syndrome is as great as for those without.
- ❖ People with Down syndrome have a life expectancy that approaches that of the typical population.
- ❖ Down syndrome occurs in all cultural groups and economic classes. It occurs evenly in boys and girls.
- ❖ People with Down syndrome resemble their family members more than they do other people with Down syndrome.
- ❖ The majority of people with Down syndrome only have a mild to moderate intellectual disability.
- ❖ People with Down syndrome are often characterized as being "happy," "cute" and/or "stubborn." In fact each individual with Down syndrome has a unique personality.