



Our Mission

We are a group of parents, individuals with Down syndrome, educators and community support professionals who firmly believe in the inherent equality of people with Down syndrome.

The Down Syndrome Association of York Region is committed to promoting a positive image of people with Down syndrome as being valued members of our communities.

Did You Know...

- Down syndrome results when a baby is born with an extra copy of chromosome 21. Typically, people have 23 pairs of chromosomes in each body cell but a person with Down syndrome has a third copy chromosome 21.
- This chromosome imbalance results in developmental delay, some unique physical features and an increased chance of certain medical conditions. However, this is not indicative of the many strengths and talents that each individual possesses.
- Down syndrome occurs naturally about 1 in every 800 births, evenly among boys and girls, across all races and socio-economical classes.
- The incidence of births of children with Down syndrome increases with maternal age however, 80% of babies with Down syndrome are born to women under the age of 35.
- Down syndrome is the most common chromosomal condition. The exact cause is still unknown.
- Down syndrome was named after the English doctor, John Langdon Down, who was the first to categorize the common features of people with this condition.
- The variation in abilities, behaviours and physical development in those with Down syndrome is as great as those without.
- People with Down syndrome have a life expectancy that approaches that of the typical population.
- Down syndrome is not a disease, disorder, defect or medical condition. It is inappropriate and offensive to refer to people with Down syndrome as “afflicted with” or “suffering from”. Down syndrome itself does not require treatment or prevention. People with Down syndrome are not sick, and don't need fixing.
- A person with Down syndrome is a person first and should not be referred to as a “DOWNS person” (eg, a “student with Downs” instead of a “DOWNS student”).
- People with Down syndrome resemble their family members more than they do other people with Down syndrome.
- Like all children, those with Down syndrome go to school, learn various subjects, join sports/arts programs and develop great relationships.
- Experience has proven that with early intervention and family/educational support, a person with Down syndrome has unlimited learning & development ability.