



Facts and Myths about Down Syndrome

Myth	Fact
Down syndrome is a rare genetic order.	Down syndrome occurs 1 in 800 to 1,000 births.
Most Children with Down syndrome are born to older parents	Most (about 80%) children born with Down syndrome are born to women younger than age 35. However, these women have an overall higher birth rate than those who are older. It is true that as a woman ages, her chance of conceiving a child with Down syndrome becomes greater.
People with Down syndrome are severely retarded.	Most people with Down syndrome have mild to moderate below-normal intelligence. Children with Down syndrome can learn, and like people who do not have this condition, their potential is unknown.
Most people with Down syndrome live in institutions.	Most children with Down syndrome live at home with their families and are active in educational, social, and recreational activities in their community. As adults, they may live in group homes and other independent housing arrangements.
Parents have difficulty finding helpful resources to help them while raising a child with Down syndrome.	Almost every community has parent support groups and other organizations directly involved in providing services to families affected by Down syndrome.
Children with Down syndrome must be placed in separate special education programs.	Children with Down syndrome have been included in regular classrooms. In some instances, they are in the regular classroom for part of the day, attending special classes for other subjects. Many children stay in the regular classroom curriculum.
Adults with Down syndrome cannot hold jobs.	Adults with Down syndrome can hold a variety of positions. Some people can be competitively employed; others need a supportive work situation.
The problems associated with Down syndrome can never be improved, corrected, or prevented.	Although Down syndrome cannot be cured, research is making great strides in identifying the genes that cause the characteristics of this condition. Some scientists believe that it may become possible to improve, correct, or prevent many of the problems associated with Down syndrome in the future.
People with Down syndrome are always happy.	People with Down syndrome have feelings just like everyone else. They respond to friendliness, and they are hurt and upset by inconsiderate behaviour.
Adults with Down syndrome are unable to form close relationships leading to marriage.	People with Down syndrome date, socialize, and form ongoing relationships. Some marry. Women with Down syndrome can and do have children, but there is a 50% chance that their children will also have this condition.



**DOWN SYNDROME
ASSOCIATION**
OF YORK REGION

Down Syndrome Association of York Region Phone: (416) 410-DOWN
Toll Free: 1-800-649-DOWN
Email: info@dsayr.ca
www.dsayr.ca