

God Sent To Me An Angel

God sent to me an Angel,
It had a broken wing.
I bent my head and wondered
“How could God do such a thing?”
When I asked the Father
Why He sent this child to me,
The answer was forthcoming,
He said “Listen and you’ll see.”
“My children are all precious,
And none is like the rest.
Each one to me is special,
And the least is as the best.
I send each one from Heaven
And I place it in the care
Of those who know my mercy,
Those with love to spare.
Sometimes I take them back again.
Sometimes I let them stay.
No matter what may happen
I am never far away.
So if you find an Angel
And you don’t know what to do,
Remember, I am with you,
Love is all I ask of you.”
Paul Dammann

Associations & Organizations

Down Syndrome Association of Houston
(713) 682-7237
www.dsah.net

The ARC of Greater Houston
(713) 957-1600
www.thearcofgreaterhouston.com

Early Childhood Intervention
(713) 970-4900
www.eci.state.tx.us

The Rise School of Houston
(713) 532-RISE
www.riseschool.org

National Adoption Center
1-800-TO-ADOPT
www.adopt.org

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Our mission is to minister and provide support and information to families and prospective families of children with disabilities.

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Down Syndrome



An informational brochure
presented by:



*Celebrating the blessing of
Children with special needs*

What Does My Child Have?

• What is Down Syndrome?

Down syndrome is a chromosomal disorder which usually causes delay in physical, intellectual and language development. The majority of children with Down syndrome (95%) have Trisomy 21 and are found to have three, instead of the usual two, number 21 chromosomes.

• What should I expect?

You should expect your child will be as different and unpredictable as any other child. There will be ups and downs; accomplishments and failures; good days and bad. The outlook for children with Down syndrome has never been brighter. Advances in medicine, early intervention programs, specialized schools, and college programs geared toward individuals with disabilities allow persons with Down syndrome to live fuller, longer and healthier lives. Although there are certain physical and intellectual occurrences that can be



associated with Down syndrome that you should be aware of and certain steps you will need to take for your child's physical and mental health, you should expect your child to be as unique, capable and loving as any other.

• What do I do next?

Give yourself permission to feel all the things you are feeling—grief, guilt, sadness, confusion, anger—then realize the miracle you have just witnessed and enjoy the birth of your beautiful new baby! If you need someone to talk to, pick up the phone and call us and we will get you in touch with a parent of a child with Down syndrome who can answer many of your questions and understand your feelings and concerns. We can also provide you with information about Down syndrome, the importance of early intervention, and medical testing that should be done and when.

Facts About Down Syndrome*

- The incidence of Down syndrome in the United States is estimated to be 1 in every 800-1,100 live births
- The exact causes of the chromosomal rearrangement and primary prevention of Down syndrome are currently unknown
- There are approximately 1/4 million families in the U.S. affected by Down syndrome
- While the likelihood of giving birth to a child with Down syndrome increases with maternal age, 80% of babies with Down syndrome are born to women under 35 years of age, as women in that age group give birth to more babies overall
- There is a wide variation in mental abilities, behavior and physical development in individuals with Down syndrome; each individual has his or her own unique personality, capabilities and talents
- 30%-50% of individuals with Down syndrome have heart defects and 8%-12% have gastrointestinal tract abnormalities present at birth; most of these defects are now correctible by surgery
- Individuals with Down syndrome benefit from loving homes, early intervention, special education, appropriate medical care and positive public attitudes
- In adulthood, many individuals with Down syndrome have jobs, live independently and enjoy recreational opportunities in their communities



Why Me?

Because you were chosen. You were chosen by God to have a child that will love you, inspire you and save you, if you let them. The parent of a child with Down syndrome will never take for granted a spoken word; never consider a step ordinary; never consider an accomplishment minor. You may not realize it yet, but you are so blessed. When you are ready, you will see it - your child will show you.

In the meantime, if you need help, encouragement, support, prayers or just someone to listen to your fears and concerns, please call us. We have caring people ready and willing to answer any questions you may have and help in any way you may need. You may also visit our web site at www.fathersjoy.org.



"...children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward." Psalm 127:3, NASV

"So the Lord said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord?'" Exodus 4:11, NKJV

*Source: National Down Syndrome Congress