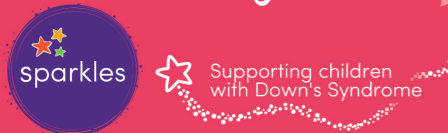


Understanding Down's Syndrome

Let's tackle the misconceptions

For more information,
Please go to:



www.sparkles.org.uk
www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

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An Introduction to Down's Syndrome

Down's syndrome is a genetic condition caused by the presence of an extra, 21st chromosome. Nothing done before or during pregnancy can cause Down's syndrome. It occurs in all races, social classes and throughout the world and it can happen to anyone.

Down's syndrome is the most common genetic condition. Two babies with Down's syndrome are born every day in the UK. Around one in every 1,000 babies born will have Down's syndrome.



The Name Down's

The word "Down's" in "Down's Syndrome" has a negative connotation and many assume it is because it describes the condition. Actually it has nothing to do with the condition! "Down's syndrome" is not meant to describe those with the condition as being "down" instead, like many medical conditions, it is named after a physician who described the condition – Dr. John Langdon Down.



Facts about Down's syndrome

1. Down's syndrome is the most common genetic condition. It is caused by the presence of an extra, 21st chromosome. It occurs in all races, social classes and throughout the world and it can happen to anyone.
2. People with Down's syndrome have regular feelings, the same as everyone else.
3. There is no such thing as "mild" or "severe" Down's syndrome. You either have it or you don't. As with anyone else, some things will come easy while other things may be a little challenging.
4. Down's syndrome is not an illness or a disease; people with Down's syndrome are not suffering.
5. The physical characteristics of a person with Down's syndrome does not determine the level of learning difficulty an individual may have.
6. No two people with Down's syndrome are the same. People with Down's syndrome are more like their families than others with Down's syndrome.
7. Adults with Down's syndrome are not children, and shouldn't be treated like children. They enjoy activities and companionship with other adults, and have similar needs and feelings as their typical peers.
8. Most children with Down's syndrome do best in an inclusive learning environment, and it's equally important for typical kids to learn about diversity, kindness, and friendship at an early age.
9. Research states: 99% of people with Down's syndrome are happy with their life, over 96% of siblings are proud of their sibling with Down's syndrome and over 88% felt they are better people because of it.
10. People with Down's syndrome are able to, and many want to work. Sometimes opportunities can be limited due to misconceptions. Research suggests that in the UK, 65% of those with Down's syndrome want to work and currently only 20% are in employment, illuminating a need to bridge the gap. If you own a business, please don't assume those with Down's syndrome are unable to work; give someone with Down's syndrome a chance.



Meet Saajan



Saajan is the centre of our family and has brought us so much joy. He has taught us to appreciate the smaller things in life and we are so proud of him.

Saajan loves motorbikes, just like his daddy. His big brother, Arjun, adores him and they love playing Hot Wheels and Avengers together! Saajan has taught Arjun compassion and kindness. His favourite food is pizza, just like his mummy! He is determined, very intuitive and knows just when someone is in need of one of his comforting cuddles. He loves swimming and needs any excuse to dance! He has travelled to over 10 destinations in just 3 years and recently went on his first ever safari in the Masai Mara – his favourite animals were the lions! He loves to listen to religious music known as Kirtan. He has the warmest heart and greets everyone with a big wave.

Saajan happens to have Down's syndrome. We had a 1 in 100,000 chance of having a baby with Down's syndrome – we hit the jackpot!

If you'd like to follow Saajan's journey, visit:
www.BabyBrainMemoirs.com
[Instagram.com/BabyBrainMemoirs](https://www.instagram.com/BabyBrainMemoirs)

Will my child with Down's syndrome be able to find a job?

When a child is born with Down's syndrome, naturally some parents worry about their future. People with Down's syndrome are capable of achieving so much given the right support; it may just take them a little longer. Below is just a handful of successful stories.

Joe Steffy Poppin Korn

Poppin Joe's Gourmet Kettle Korn was established by Joe Steffy. His popcorn is sold in many stores such as Walmart. As a young adult, he is involved in every part of the business and loves interacting with the community. His company prides itself in raising funds for charitable organisations.



Gracie Jagler Dog Treats

Gracie Jagler is a young woman who loves dogs and owns three rescue miniature Schnauzers. As a teenager, she started her own business selling dog treats. So far she has made over \$40,000 in sales. Her favourite part of the business is seeing customer photos of their dogs enjoying her treats. She calls them 'G-dogs'.



Aditi Verma Café

Aditi's Corner is a café in India serving lunch and snacks. It was opened by Aditi Verma with the support of her mother. She successfully manages the café including two members of staff. She regularly shares her story at motivational talks and continues to inspire many people around her.



Bitty & Beau's Coffee Shop

Bitty & Beau's Coffee is more than just a cup of coffee. Named after the Wright family's youngest two, the coffee shop employs 80 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The business continues to grow with a fourth store opening soon.



John Cronin Crazy Socks

John's Crazy Socks opened in 2016 by John Cronin with one message in mind, 'spread happiness'. After college he set up his own business selling funky socks. 23 year old John recently won one of the most prestigious business awards for 'Entrepreneur of the year 2019® New York'.



Collette Divitto Cookies

Collette Divitto started her own business after being denied many jobs. She always had a passion for baking, so set up a cookie business called 'Colletty's'. She now employs 13 people and has sold over 180,000 cookies.



Chelsea Werner Gymnast

Chelsea Werner is a world champion gymnast participating in the Special Olympics. She's won many gold medals over the years due to her determination and persistence. As well as this, she has modelled for H&M and New York Fashion week.



Madeline Stuart Supermodel

Madeline Stuart is a supermodel who has walked the Paris, London and New York Fashion Week catwalk. She has appeared in leading publications such as Vogue and Cosmopolitan and is an advocate for inclusiveness and diversity in modelling. She currently oversees her dance school and has her own Fashion Label '21 Reasons Why'.



DID YOU KNOW...

WorkFit is the Down's Syndrome Association's employment programme, which brings together employers and jobseekers who have Down's syndrome.

Are you a business that would like to support someone living with Down's syndrome by having them as an employee? If so, get in touch with WorkFit. Visit www.dsworkfit.org.uk

All these people have Down's syndrome.