

#DOWNSYNDROMEFACTS

TODAY, 21/03, IS
WORLD DOWN
SYNDROME DAY.



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#DOWNSYNDROMEFACTS

PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME HAVE AN EXTRA CHROMOSOME 21. PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME HAVE 3 (TRI) COPIES OF CHROMOSOME 21 INSTEAD OF 2 COPIES. THAT IS WHY DOWN SYNDROME IS ALSO KNOWN AS TRISOMY 21.



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#DOWNSYNDROMEFACTS

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY
IS CELEBRATED ON 21/03
EVERY YEAR. THE MONTH 03
(MARCH) RELATES TO
TRISOMY/3 COPIES & THE
DATE 21 RELATES TO
CHROMOSOME 21.
MAKE SENSE?



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#DOWNSYNDROMEFACTS

DOWN SYNDROME IS NAMED AFTER DR LANGDON DOWN, THE PHYSICIAN WHO FIRST DESCRIBED ITS FEATURES IN 1866. THE WORD "SYNDROME" MEANS "A COLLECTION OF SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS USUALLY FOUND IN COMBINATION."



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Down Syndrome South Africa

DOWN SYNDROME SOUTH AFRICA

#DOWNSYNDROMEFACTS

ABOUT 1 IN EVERY 600 BABIES BORN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAS DOWN SYNDROME. ANY FATHER'S OR MOTHER'S CHANCE TO HAVE ANOTHER CHILD WITH DOWN SYNDROME IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS ANOTHER FATHER OR MOTHER OF THE SAME AGE. HOWEVER, RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT IF A COUPLE ALREADY HAS A CHILD WITH DOWN SYNDROME OR IF A MOTHER IS 35 YEARS OR OLDER, THE RISK OF HAVING ANOTHER CHILD WITH DOWN SYNDROME SLIGHTLY INCREASES.



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#DownSyndromeInfo

A BABY WITH DOWN SYNDROME WILL NEED TO BE CARED FOR JUST AS ANY OTHER BABY WOULD WHICH MEANS THAT HE/SHE WILL NEED TO BE FED, CHANGED, BATHED, LOVED, PLAYED WITH, ETC. THROUGHOUT LIFE, MAKE SURE THAT A BABY/CHILD WITH DOWN SYNDROME IS TREATED AS ALL OTHER CHILDREN ARE TREATED. CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME BENEFIT FROM & PROSPER IN A LOVING CARING FAMILY ENVIRONMENT. A BABY WITH DOWN SYNDROME WILL TEND TO BE SLOW TO RESPOND. HOWEVER, IF A BABY WITH DOWN SYNDROME IS CUDDLED & HANDLED LOVINGLY ON A REGULAR BASIS, HE/SHE WILL EVENTUALLY RESPOND. BOTH PARENTS & THE BABY BENEFIT FROM THE CONTACT. WHEN A BABY WITH DOWN SYNDROME GROWS UP, HE/SHE WILL NEED HIS/HER LOVED ONES TO ASSIST HIM/HER IN REACHING HIS/HER MILESTONES. REFERENCE:



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DOWN SYNDROME SOUTH AFRICA

#DOWNSYNDROMEINFO

EVERY CHILD GROWS & LEARNS. WHETHER A CHILD HAS DOWN SYNDROME OR NOT, CHILDREN VARY IN THEIR RATE OF DEVELOPMENT. CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME USUALLY FOLLOW THE SAME PATTERN OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT, WHILE PERHAPS TAKING LONGER TO ACHIEVE A SKILL. THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT IS DIVIDED INTO: GROSS MOTOR, FINE MOTOR, LANGUAGE, COGNITIVE, SOCIAL & SELF-HELP SKILLS. ALL THESE AREAS ARE LINKED TO ONE ANOTHER & PROGRESS IN ONE AREA AFFECTS PROGRESS IN OTHERS. FACTORS SUCH AS MUSCLE TONE & GENERAL HEALTH MAY AFFECT THE RATE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.



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#DOWNSYNDROMEINFO

STIMULATION IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BABIES WITH DOWN SYNDROME. AS PARENTS OF A BABY WITH DOWN SYNDROME, YOU ARE USUALLY IN THE BEST POSITION TO CARE FOR & STIMULATE YOUR CHILD.

LEARNING FOR THE BABY BEGINS AS SOON AS HE/SHE IS BORN. WHEN HE/SHE IS AWAKE HE/SHE NEEDS EXERCISE FOR HIS/HER BODY & MIND. ENCOURAGE EYE CONTACT BY TALKING & SINGING TO THE BABY DURING FEEDING, PLAYING & ANY INTERACTION.

AS NEW PARENTS OF A CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, THERE ARE A SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOUR CHILD IN HIS/HER DEVELOPMENT. EARLY INTERVENTION IS A GOOD START WHICH CAN INCLUDE THE SERVICES OF:

- SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPISTS
- PHYSIOTHERAPISTS
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS



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