

# Myths & Truths

**Myth:** Down syndrome is a rare genetic disorder.

**Truth:**

Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring genetic condition. Approximately one in every 691 babies is born with Down syndrome.

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**Myth:** Most people with Down syndrome are institutionalized.

**Truth:**

Today people with Down syndrome live at home with their families and are active participants in the educational, vocational, social, and recreational activities of the community. They are integrated into the regular education system and take part in various community activities, including sports and art programs. People with Down syndrome deserve to be valued members of their families and their communities, contributing to society in a variety of ways.

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**Myth:** People with Down syndrome are always happy.

**Truth:**

People with Down syndrome have feelings just like everyone else in the population. They experience the full range of emotions. They respond to positive expressions of friendship and they are hurt and upset by inconsiderate behavior.

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**Myth:** Adults with Down syndrome are unemployable.

**Truth:**

Adults with Down syndrome can make excellent employees with the correct training. We offer a vocational program for just this purpose and we have successfully trained and placed some of our graduates in a variety of positions. They are being employed in small and medium-sized corporations, fast food outlets, grocery stores, hotels and educational institutions.

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**Myth:** Down syndrome can never be cured.

**Truth:**

Research on Down syndrome is making great strides in identifying the genes on chromosome 21 that cause the characteristics of Down syndrome. Scientists now feel strongly that it will be possible to improve, correct or prevent many of the problems associated with Down syndrome in the future.

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**Myth:** Children with Down syndrome must be placed in segregated special education programs.

**Truth:**

Children with Down syndrome have been included in regular academic classrooms. But each student needs an individualized education plan (IEP) developed by an educational support team to determine whether he or she should be integrated into specific courses or fully included in the regular classroom for all subjects. Some individuals with Down syndrome are capable of graduating from high school with regular diplomas, participating in post-secondary academic and college experiences and there are even cases of students with Down syndrome receiving college degrees.

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