

OCTOBER IS DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH!



A FEW FACTS ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME:

1. Down syndrome occurs randomly at conception. It is not caused by anything done during pregnancy.
2. Down syndrome is not an illness or disease. It is simply part of an individual's genetic makeup, just like eye color or hair color.
3. While there are physical features associated with Down syndrome, each individual is unique in what features they may exhibit. They will look more like their family than anyone else!
4. 80% of babies with Down syndrome are born to women under age 35.
5. Down syndrome is not an affliction. Although there may be certain challenges, it by no means makes a person's life any less valuable or enriched than anyone else's.
6. People with Down syndrome are not always happy! Just like all people, individuals with Down syndrome show a large range of emotions.
7. Life expectancy is more than 60 years, compared to only 25 in 1980.
8. People don't have mild or severe Down syndrome. You either have it or you don't. Ability is not dependent on the condition, but rather the individual.
9. Kids with Down syndrome go through the same milestones as all other kids, although those milestones may take longer to achieve. But really, all kids develop at their own pace!
10. Adults with Down syndrome attend work, run their own businesses, participate in decisions that affect them, have meaningful relationships, vote, and contribute to society. Watch *Born This Way* on A&E!