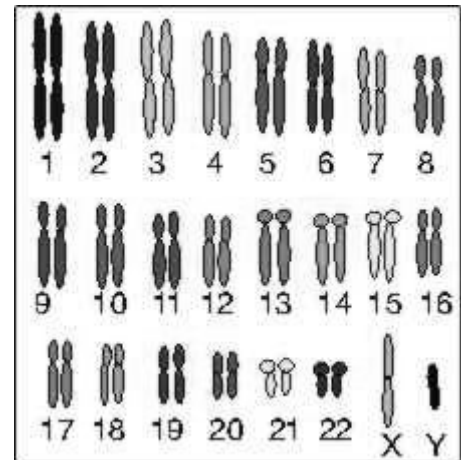


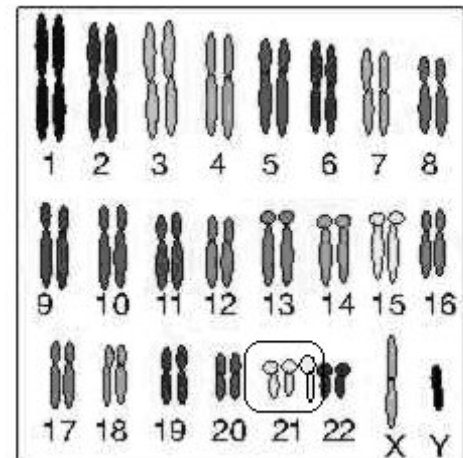
## What is Down Syndrome?

Everyone has genes in their body. This is what makes us who we are. Genes determine the color of our eyes and hair, and our personalities. In our chromosomes we have genes. Most people have 46 chromosomes in their body. When looking at the chromosomes they are divided into pairs. The last two chromosomes determine the sex of the individual. If you have an X and a Y then you are male. If you have two X's then you are female.



When a person has Down syndrome they have a 3rd copy of the 21st chromosome.

Because people with Down syndrome (DS) have an extra copy of the 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome, they can experience developmental delays.



Some of the things that people with Down syndrome experience delays in are:

- Speech and Language
- Fine Motor Skills
- Gross Motor Skills
- Learning at the same rate as their peers

**Some children may require therapy and special education help. Most are able to overcome a lot of these delays and live fulfilling lives as adults.**

Some individuals with DS can experience health issues. Some of these issues are:

- Heart problems
- Asthma
- Thyroid conditions
- Leukemia
- Ear infections
- Hearing loss

Not all people with Down syndrome experience these health issues. With proper medical care most individuals with DS can lead healthy lives.

Important things to know:

- You cannot catch DS. People with DS are born with it. It is not contagious like a cold.
- No one did anything wrong to make a person have DS. DS happens during cell division during conception.
- Adults with DS can go to college, have jobs, get married just like everyone else.
- Even if a person with DS may not speak as clearly as a person without DS, it does not mean that they can't understand you! Be a friend to a person with DS!

### **Who is International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association?**

IMDSA is a non-profit organization designed to provide support, information and research to those touched by mosaic Down syndrome throughout the world. IMDSA offers a variety of services to families and professionals interested in mosaic Down syndrome including:

- Information packet full of MDS information & inspirations
- Quarterly newsletter *MOSAIC WORLD*, full of MDS information, tips, stories and news events
- Informational Brochures in English, Spanish and Portuguese
- Biennial Research & Awareness Conference
- Toll Free hot line
- Family Connect Program
- Informative website
- Online support groups
- Research Program

**For more information just visit our website or give us a call!**

PO Box 1052~Franklin, TX 77856~USA  
PH: 979-828-4177~Toll Free: 888-MDS-LINK  
[www.imdsa.org](http://www.imdsa.org)