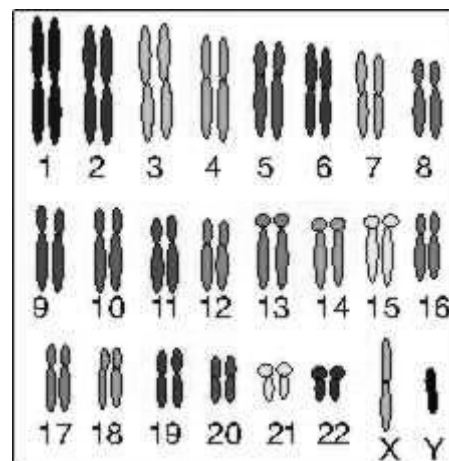


What is Down syndrome?

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. Our chromosomes are where our genes are. Most people have 46 chromosomes in their body. When a scientist looks at the chromosomes they pair them up. The last two chromosomes decide if you are a boy or a girl. If you have an X and a Y then you are a boy. If you have two X's then you are a girl.

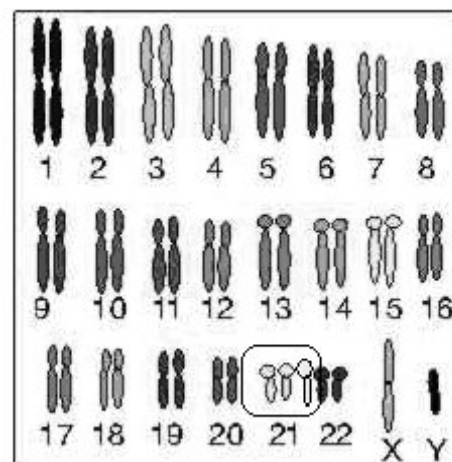


When a person has Down syndrome they have a 3rd copy of the 21st chromosome.

Because people with Down syndrome (DS) have an extra chromosome sometimes they have trouble with things that are easy for other people.

Some of the things that kids with Down syndrome may take longer doing are:

- Speaking Clearly
- Running and Jumping
- Finishing School work as fast as their peers
- Holding a pencil



But, with a little extra time, they will be able to do all these things just like everyone else!

Sometimes people with DS get sick and need to go to the doctor. People with DS can have:

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

Not all people with Down syndrome have these problems, but sometimes they do, so they have to go to the doctor often to make sure they stay healthy.

Even though kids with Down syndrome may take longer doing certain things, they still like to do all the things other kids like to do!

Kids with DS like to:

- Play with friends
- Listen to music
- Watch TV
- Play video games
- Play in sports
- Go to the Mall

Kids with DS like all the same things that kids without DS like!

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 before the baby is born.
- Adults with DS can go to college, have jobs, get married just like everyone else
- Even if a person with DS cannot 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! Don't pick on someone just because they do things differently.

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 MDS Research & Awareness Conference
- Toll Free hot line
- Family Connect Program
- Informative website
- Online support groups
- Research Program

For more information on MDS, DS and IMDSA, just visit our website or give us a call!

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