DSUK
Down Syndrome UK

LANGUAGE MATTERS

We rely on health professionals, teachers and others in positions of responsibility to speak about matters relating to Down syndrome in ways that are both accurate and respectful to people with Down syndrome and their families, as well as the wider community.

Donate today

DOWN SYNDROME IS A NATURALLY OCCURRING GENETIC DIFFERENCE CAUSED BY AN EXTRA CHROMOSOME

DOWN SYNDROME IS NOT A DEFECT OR AN ILLNESS. A PERSON DOES NOT SUFFER FROM DOWN SYNDROME

BABIES WITH DOWN SYNDROME ARE BORN IN EVERY COUNTRY TO PARENTS OF ALL AGES, RACES, RELIGIONS AND BACKGROUNDS

DOWN SYNDROME IS NOT A DISORDER, JUST A DIFFERENCE

CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME HAVE THE SAME NEEDS AS ANY OTHER CHILDREN, TO HAVE FRIENDS, TO BELONG, TO BE INCLUDED AND TO ENJOY LIFE

WHILST PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME SHARE SOME COMMON PHYSICAL CHARACTERISITICS, EACH PERSON LOOKS MORE LIKE THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS THAN LIKE OTHERS WITH DOWN SYNDROME

LANGUAGE REFLECTS ATTITUDES AND IMPACTS BEHAVIOUR. ALWAYS ENSURE LANGUAGE IS RESPECTFUL & FACTUAL. NEVER DISCRIMINATORY OR BIAS.

DOWN SYNDROME: NEVER A RISK, JUST A CHANCE

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY IS OFTEN LADEN WITH NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS - RISK, ANOMALY, DISORDER AND ABNORMALITY

ALWAYS USE PERSON FIRST LANGUAGE. A BABY HAS DOWN SYNDROME, NEVER A 'DOWN'S BABY'.

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