



MYTHS vs TRUTHS of Down Syndrome

Myth: Down syndrome is a rare genetic disorder.

Truth: Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring genetic condition.

According to the Utah Department of Health, one in every 580 births is a child with Down syndrome. Currently, there are about 80 babies born each year in the state of Utah that have Down syndrome.

Myth: Having a child with Down syndrome will be a burden on a family.

Truth: Children with Down syndrome have a variety of gifts and talents. Each one has a unique personality all their own. They bring joy to their families and enhance the world around them. Many people seek to adopt children with Down syndrome because they feel that these children will enrich the lives of their families.

Myth: All individuals with Down syndrome will have severe developmental or intellectual delays.

Truth: Most people with Down syndrome have cognitive delays that are mild to moderate. IQ is not an adequate measure of the functional status of people with Down syndrome. People with Down syndrome have great potential when given the opportunity to succeed.

Myth: Individuals born with Down syndrome do not experience full and meaningful, productive lives.

Truth: Individuals with Down syndrome live at home with their families, in group homes, or in homes of their own. They are integrated into the regular education system and are active participants in the vocational, social, religious, and recreational activities of the community. Many individuals will go to college, work, and lead meaningful lives.
