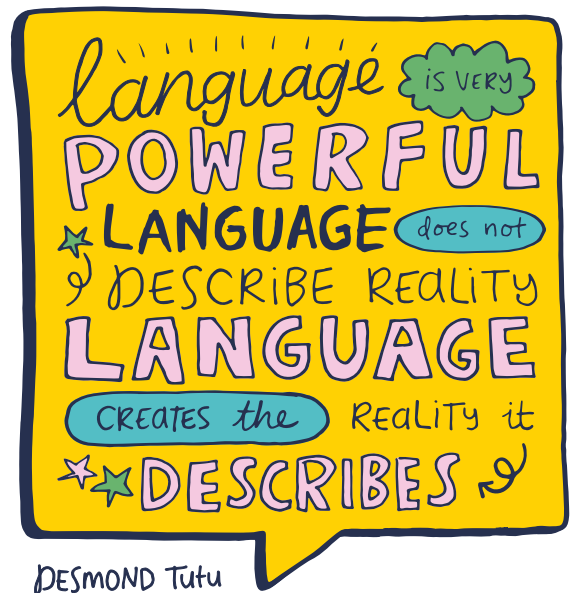


LANGUAGE CREATES REALITY

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What is DOWN SYNDROME?

Down Syndrome is a CHROMOSOMAL CONDITION that occurs when the egg and sperm meet. Each cell contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, in Down Syndrome, chromosome ^{number 21} sticks on the very first divide at the very, very beginning, it then divides in threes. It is not a disease or an illness, it is a condition or syndrome.

Why DOWN SYNDROME?

Down Syndrome was first described by an English physician JOHN LANGDON DOWN in 1862. Hence the name Down Syndrome or Down's Syndrome. There are 3 types of Down Syndrome, the most common is also known as TRISOMY 21 (3 copies of chromosome 21).

~~"THEY
are all"~~

"WE
are all"

All people with Down Syndrome are INDIVIDUALS, not a 'they' or an 'other'. As humans, with or without Down Syndrome, we are all UNIQUE. It's about the human, the person, the individual.

~~"a DOWN
SYNDROME
baby"~~

"a BABY
with Down
Syndrome"

Rather than defining people by their disability, people-first language conveys RESPECT by emphasising the fact that people are first and foremost that - PEOPLE.



Down Syndrome?

~~"BUT~~ he's
got nice hair
~~THOUGH~~

"he's got
nice hair"

~~"BUT~~ she's got
beautiful eyes
~~THOUGH~~

"she's got
beautiful eyes"

A compliment with 'but' or 'though' is
not a compliment.

~~"SUFFERS~~
~~from Down~~
~~Syndrome"~~

"HAS Down
Syndrome"

Down Syndrome is NOT AN ILLNESS or
an injury that someone 'suffers' from or is
'affected' by. It is a SYNDROME that
approximately 1 in 1000 of us are born with.

~~"a DOWNS~~
~~baby"~~

"a baby
with **DOWN**
SYNDROME"

~~"a DOWNS"~~

~~"a DOWNSIE"~~
~~"a baby~~
~~with DOWNS"~~

"a baby
with **DOWN'S**
SYNDROME"

Down Syndrome is a medical condition
named after the physician who first
defined it, John Langdon Down.

"with a
TYPICAL baby..."

When referring to the majority, it is more
appropriate to use the word TYPICAL than
the word NORMAL. Differentiating a child
who is typical with a child who has Down
Syndrome by using the word 'normal' can
cause offence.

~~"Breaking~~
~~BAD~~
~~news"~~

"Sharing
UNEXPECTED
news"

When unexpected news is shared, the choice
of language will influence how a person hears,
understands and processes it. The first moment
Down Syndrome is mentioned will often
stay with a parent for the rest of their
lives, so it needs to be non-judgmental,
accurate and fairly balanced.

~~"There is a~~
~~high **RISK**~~
~~your baby has~~
~~Down Syndrome"~~

"There is a
high **CHANCE**
your baby has
Down Syndrome"

"The language used during scans can
have a powerful emotional impact on the
parents." "It can influence how they respond
to the news, and any decisions they make
regarding how to move forward."
Dr Judith Johnson.

