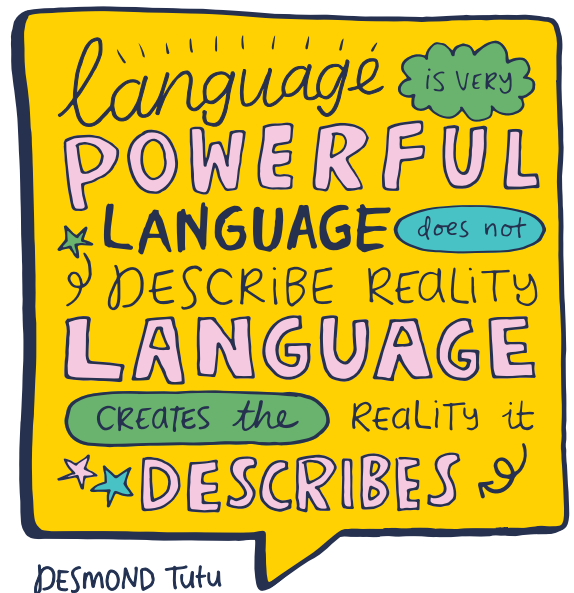


LANGUAGE CREATES REALITY

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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. Medically the syndrome is also called 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 with disabilities 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. 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.

