



Sky 539 : Virgin TV 233 : Freeview 87



## Down's Syndrome Factsheet

Community Channel broadcasts several programmes profiling people with Down's Syndrome. Tommy's Story, Ups not Downs, Danny's Beautiful Life, and others.

This factsheet provides further information on Down's Syndrome, as well as a terminology guide.

### **Down's Syndrome - Key facts and figures**

- Around one in every 1,000 babies born in the UK will have Down's syndrome.
- One to two babies are born with Down's syndrome every day in the UK alone.
- There are 60,000 people in the UK with the condition.
- Although the chance of having a baby with Down's syndrome is higher for older mothers, more babies with Down's syndrome are born to younger women.
- Down's syndrome is caused by the presence of an extra chromosome in a baby's cells. It occurs by chance at conception and is irreversible.
- Down's syndrome is not a disease. People with Down's syndrome are not ill and do not "suffer" from the condition.
- People with the syndrome will have a degree of learning difficulty. However, most people with Down's syndrome will walk and talk and many will read and write, go to ordinary schools and lead fulfilling, semi-independent lives.
- Today, people with Down's syndrome can look forward to a life of 60 years plus.

### **About the Down's Syndrome Association (DSA)**

- The DSA is the only organisation in this country focusing solely on all aspects of living successfully with Down's syndrome. Since formation in 1970 it has grown from being a local parent support group to a national charity with over 19,000 members.
- In 2006, the DSA responded to over 26,000 telephone enquiries from members, professionals and the general public. We sent out more than 25,000 leaflets and fact-sheets and received over 15 million hits on the website.

- The DSA has over 100 local affiliated groups throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland as well as offices in South London, Cardiff and Belfast, plus a team of regional staff supporting families and professionals throughout most of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- The DSA relies almost entirely on voluntary donations to continue operating.
- The DSA has an annual operating need of approximately £1.7 million.

### **Terminology Guide:**

#### **Down's syndrome - What to say (and not to say)**

The Down's Syndrome Association relies on the media to speak about issues relating to Down's syndrome in a way that is both factually accurate and inoffensive to the general public, including people with Down's syndrome and their families.

Please take a minute to check the following language guidelines and that you are not perpetuating any myths about the condition.

<b>DON'T SAY</b>	<b>DO SAY</b>
Mongol	Person/baby/child with Down's syndrome
Suffers from OR is a victim of Down's syndrome	Has Down's syndrome
A Down's baby/person/child	A person/baby/child with Down's syndrome or who has Down's syndrome
Retarded/mentally handicapped/backward	Learning disability
Disease/illness/handicap	Condition OR genetic condition
Down's (as an abbreviation)	DS (as an abbreviation if necessary)

<b>MYTHS</b>	<b>FACTS</b>
People with Down's syndrome don't live very long.	Today, people with Down's syndrome can look forward to a life of 60 years plus.
Only older mothers have babies with Down's syndrome.	Although older mothers have a higher individual chance of having a baby with Down's syndrome, more are born to younger mothers, reflecting the higher birth rate in this age group.
People with Down's syndrome cannot achieve normal life goals.	With the right support, they can. The vast majority of people with Down's syndrome learn to walk and talk, and many are now attending mainstream schools, passing GCSEs and living full, semi-independent adult lives.
People with Down's syndrome all look the same.	There are certain physical characteristics that can occur. People with Down's syndrome can have all of them or none. A person with Down's syndrome will always look more like his or her close family than someone else with the condition.
People with Down's syndrome are always	We are all individuals and people with

happy and affectionate.

Down's syndrome are no different to anyone else in their character traits and varying moods.

## *Organisations*

### **Down's Syndrome Association**

The Down's Syndrome Association helps people with Down's syndrome to live full and rewarding lives.

**Helpline:** 0845 230 0372

The helpline is open Monday-Friday 10am - 4pm

**Address:** Langdon Down Centre, 2a Langdon Park, Teddington TW11 9PS

**Tel:** 0845 230 0372

**Fax:** 0845 230 0373

**Email:** [info@downs-syndrome.org.uk](mailto:info@downs-syndrome.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.downs-syndrome.org.uk](http://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk)

### **Community Channel**

Community Channel is a not-for-profit, free to air television channel in the UK launched in September 2000. Owned by the Media Trust, a registered charity, its remit is to give a voice to community groups, charities of all sizes and not-for-profit organizations through using news, current affairs, documentaries and lifestyle programming.

**Web:** [www.communitychannel.org](http://www.communitychannel.org)

**Tel:** 08708 505500

**Email:** [info@communitychannel.org](mailto:info@communitychannel.org)

Community Channel is not responsible for the content of other sites listed.

Community Channel, 2ndFloor, Riverwalk House,157-161 Millbank, London, SW1P 4RR  
**[www.communitychannel.org](http://www.communitychannel.org)**    **[info@communitychannel.org](mailto:info@communitychannel.org)**