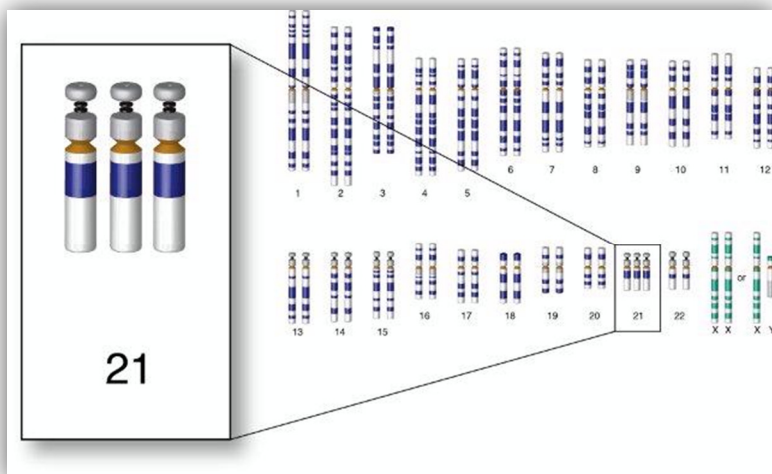
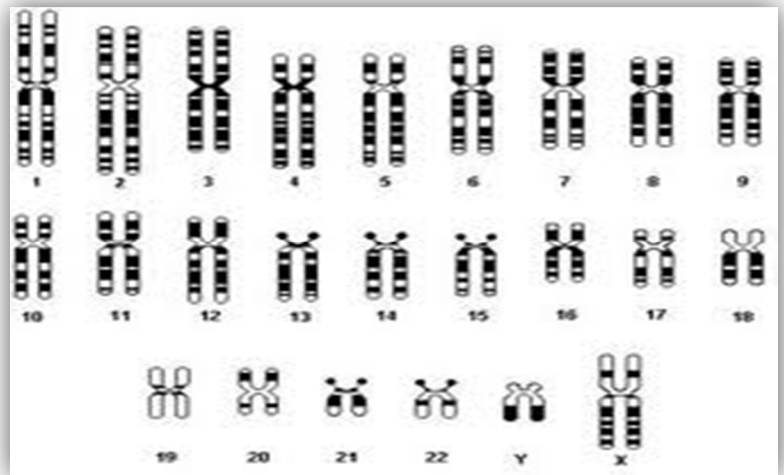




What is Down syndrome?

Everyone has genes in their body. This is what makes us who we are. Genes determine the color of our eyes and hair, and our personalities. In our chromosomes we have genes. Most people have 46 chromosomes in their body. When looking at the chromosomes, they are divided into pairs. The last two chromosomes determine the sex of the individual. If you have an X and a Y you are a male. If you have an X and an X you are a female.



When a person has Down syndrome they have a third copy of the 21st chromosome (shown, left) instead of two (shown, above).

People with Down syndrome, or Ds, sometimes experience developmental delays. Some of the areas that people with Ds might experience delays are:

- Speech and Language
- Fine Motor Skills
- Gross Motor Skills
- Learning

Some children may require therapy and special education help. Most are able to overcome a lot of these delays and live fulfilling lives as adults.

Some individuals with Ds can experience health issues. Some of these issues are:

- Heart problems
- Asthma
- Thyroid conditions
- Leukemia
- Ear infections
- Hearing Loss

Not all people with Down syndrome experience these health issues. With proper medical care most individuals with Ds can lead healthy lives.

Important things to know:

- You cannot catch Ds. People with Ds are born with it. It is not contagious like a cold.
- No one did anything to cause a person to have Ds. MDs happens during cell division during or after conception.
- Adults with Ds can go to college, have jobs, get married and have kids just like everyone else.
- Even if a person with Ds may not speak as clearly as a person without Ds, it does not mean that they cannot understand you.

Who is International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association?

IMDSA is a non-profit organization designed to support any family or individual whose life has been touched by mosaic Down syndrome by continuously pursuing research opportunities and increasing awareness in the medical, educational and public communities throughout the world.