

Eastview Christian Church



Medical Concern: Down Syndrome

A genetic disorder caused by a chromosomal abnormality. Down Syndrome results when an extra chromosome 21 or extra part of the chromosome 21 is in the body's cells. Also known as Trisomy 21. The presence of this extra genetic material can occur several ways: by nondisjunction, translocation or mosaicism.

****Please note – each individual is different, see distinct instructions on child's info sheet****

Characteristics:

- Poor muscle tone/hypotonia
- A flat face with an upward slant to the eye, short neck, small ears, and a large tongue
- Small hands and feet
- Excessive ability to extend the joints
- Stomach and digestive problems
- Delayed physical coordination/gross motor skills and language skills
- Have an IQ in the mild to moderate range
- Hearing and/or Vision problems
- Other possible health concerns: heart problems, hypothyroidism, obesity, dry skin.

Tips for Volunteers:

- Be patient with the student
- Give opportunities for the student to be successful
- Give clear instruction to the student, and use visuals if possible
- Allow additional time to give verbal answers
- When the student is doing a task or craft, break it down into smaller steps
- Give positive feedback
- Use the signs language that the student uses (more, all done, again, Jesus)
- They experience sensitivity to loud noises or background sounds...headphone maybe helpful.

Word from Michelle Maris: Thank you for all that you do! Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call 309-451-5065 or email me mmaris@eastview.church. You will be provided additional supplies you may need (fidgets, picture schedules). Lesson plans can be adaptive to fit the individualized needs of the child. If necessary a buddy (special trained assistant) may accompany the child during Sunday activities.