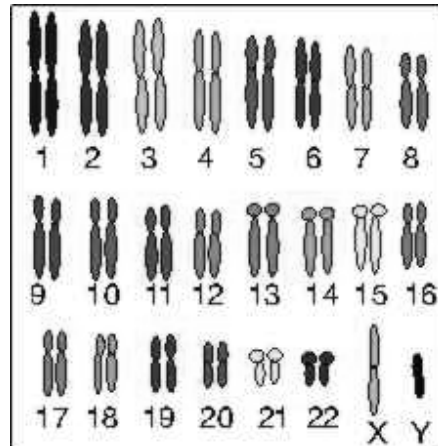
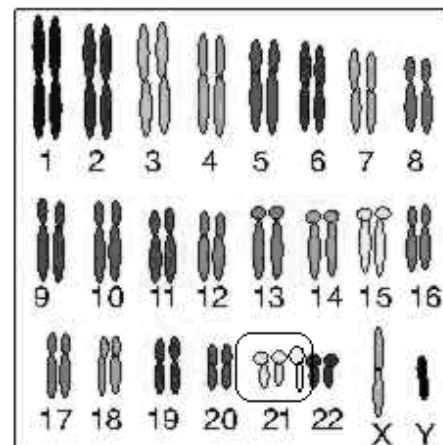


What is mosaic Down Syndrome?

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. Our chromosomes are where our genes are. Most people have 46 chromosomes in their body. When a scientist looks at the chromosomes they pair them up. The last two chromosomes decide if you are a boy or a girl. If you have an X and a Y then you are a boy. If you have two X's then you are a girl.



When a person has mosaic Down syndrome they have percentage of cells that have 46 chromosomes and the remaining cells have 47 chromosomes. Mosaic Down syndrome happens when a 3rd copy of the 21st chromosome appears in a percentage of the cells.



Because people with mosaic Down syndrome (MDS) have an extra chromosome sometimes they have trouble with things that are easy for other people.

Some of the things that kids with mosaic Down syndrome may take longer doing are:

- Speaking Clearly
- Running and Jumping
- Finishing School work as fast as their peers
- Holding a pencil

But, with a little extra time, they will be able to do all these things just like everyone else!

Sometimes people with MDS get sick and need to go to the doctor. People with MDS can have:

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

Not all people with mosaic Down syndrome have these problems, but sometimes they do, so they have to go to the doctor often to make sure they stay healthy.

Even though kids with mosaic Down syndrome may take longer doing certain things, they still like to do all the things other kids like to do!

Kids with MDS like to:

- Play with friends
- Listen to music
- Watch TV
- Play video games
- Play in sports
- Go to the Mall

Kids with MDS like all the same things that kids without MDS like!

Important things to know:

- You can not catch MDS. People with MDS are born with it. It is not contagious like a cold.
- No one did anything wrong to make a person have MDS. MDS happens when the baby is inside its mother's belly.
- Adults with MDS can go to college, have jobs, get married just like everyone else
- Even if a person with MDS can not speak as clearly as a person without MDS, it does not mean that they can't understand you! Be a friend to a person with MDS! Don't pick on them just because they do things differently.

Who is International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association?

IMDSA is a non-profit organization designed to provide support, information and research to those touched by mosaic Down syndrome throughout the world. IMDSA offers a variety of services to families and professionals interested in mosaic Down syndrome including:

- Information packet full of MDS information & inspirations
- Quarterly newsletter *MOSAIC WORLD*, full of MDS information, tips, stories and news events
- Informational Brochures in English, Spanish and Portuguese
- Bi-Monthly Ask the Expert meetings where families can speak directly to professionals in the MDS field
- Biennial MDS Research & Awareness Conference
- Toll Free hot line
- Family Connect Program
- Informative website
- Online support groups
- Research Program

For more information on MDS and IMDSA, just visit our website or give us a call!

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