



Dear New Parent:

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby. As parents who have experienced the birth of a child with Down syndrome, we know how difficult this time can be. We hope you will find this parent information packet helpful in answering the many questions and immediate concerns you may have. Please know that you are not alone and the Down Syndrome Association of Delaware is here to help and support you and your family.

The future is bright for individuals with Down syndrome in the 21st century. Advances in research, access to high quality educational programs and increases in the quality of medical care has greatly improved the future for individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

The Down Syndrome Association of Delaware is comprised of parents, families, professionals and friends who share many experiences with individuals with Down syndrome. We have children of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds, yet we are all connected by the common link of loving a person with Down syndrome. We have a team of parents who are available to help answer questions and offer support. We are here to talk with you at any time, whether it is in the hospital, at your home or over the phone.

If there is one piece of advice we could share with you right now, it is to enjoy your new baby! Your child has Down syndrome, but the diagnosis is far second to that of this simply being your child. You are beginning down a path you may not have planned, but it is a unique and rewarding experience. We thought we would share with you a quote from one of our members:

It's difficult for me to think back to the day Anthony was born, because I remember all of the fear and sadness that I experienced. I wish I would have known just how amazing my life would be thanks to this little boy, and how he would change my world for the better. We celebrate Anthony every day because he has been the biggest blessing in our lives, and I couldn't imagine a world without him! Anthony has such a bright future ahead of him, full of possibilities. He can accomplish anything he wants to in life, and we will be there cheering him on and supporting him every step of the way! If you are lucky enough to welcome a baby with Down syndrome into this world, I have one thing to say: Congratulations!

~ Anthony's Mom

Please call, email or text with any questions you may have. You are not alone with having a newborn with special needs. Please know there is a wonderful group of people who can help you and your family through any obstacles that lie ahead. Please let us know if you would like to be connected with a member of our outreach committee. We look forward to meeting you and your family.

Sincerely,

Lauren Camp

Executive Director

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