

Dear Parent,

You probably have just received the news that your baby has Down syndrome. It was not that long ago that we were right where you are. We understand firsthand the overwhelming variety of emotions that you are feeling and with this in mind we want to say congratulations on the birth of a gift that will bless you beyond where your imagination could take you at this moment. As hard as it may be for you to see right now, in a timetable that is all your own, you will be able to work through these emotions that are so overwhelming and a healing process will begin. For us, a large part of that process came in talking with and meeting other parents and seeing how “normal” their children with Down syndrome were. We all had concerns of how Down syndrome would affect our families, our other children and our lives in general. Certainly, there have been changes and adjustments made. But, we can truly say that our families are richer because of these special babies and the experiences they have brought into our lives.



In this packet, we are including information that would have been meaningful to us as new parents of a baby with Down syndrome. The book, *Babies with Down Syndrome*, we found to be a very helpful resource; up to date and an excellent overview of almost all the important topics pertaining to Down syndrome. It is important to have current information because what is known regarding Down syndrome has changed so much in recent years. When you are ready for more information, we have a lending library of resources to offer that we have found helpful.

Please know that we want to be here for you in any way that we can. We know that it can be difficult to take that first step, to reach out and make that first phone call. Everyone’s timetable is different. We would love to meet you and your precious baby and visit with you at the hospital. Or, if you need a couple of weeks, or a few months to settle in, we would love to talk with you when you are ready.

Your new FRIENDS,

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