



Bex Mezzo – County Special Needs Adviser Report,

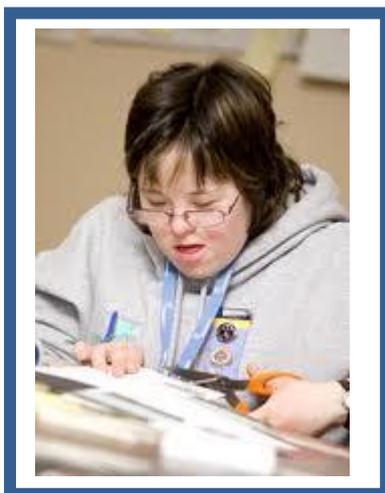
February 2014 – Theme Down's Syndrome.

The chromosomal disorder Down syndrome is caused by the presence of part or all of a 21st chromosome. Named after the British physician John Langdon Down who discovered the syndrome in 1866, the disorder has been identified by Jerome Lejeune in 1959 as a chromosome 21 trisomy. Characterised by a combination of minor and major changes in structure Down syndrome is concerned with impairment of cognitive ability and physical growth, as well as a particular set of facial characteristics. There are three forms of Down's syndrome, although the effects of each type are usually the same.

Trisomy 21 is the most common type and affects around 94% of people with Down's syndrome. Trisomy 21 occurs because every cell in the body has an extra copy of chromosome 21 (trisomy is a Greek word that means "third copy").

Translocation is caused when a piece of chromosome 21 attaches itself to another chromosome in a cell. It affects around 4% of people with Down's syndrome. The symptoms of translocation Down's syndrome are similar to those of Trisomy 21, but in rare cases it may be possible for a parent to pass translocation Down's syndrome on to their child.

Mosaicism is the least common type, affecting around 2% of people with Down's syndrome. Only some of the cells have an extra copy of chromosome 21. People with mosaic Down's syndrome may experience less delay with some aspects of their development.



“We celebrate ability not hide behind disability – inclusion brings about celebration”

If there is something that I can help you, a member of your unit be it a girl or adult member just give me a call, email me, text me. I'm here to help –

Kind regards Bex

Useful Sites:

<http://www.lincsdownsyndrome.org.uk/cms/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/130395550307862/?fref=ts>

<http://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/>