

About JDS

Japan Down syndrome Society (JDS) has been making continual efforts to assert the rights of people with Down syndrome and their families to improve their quality of life.

The roots of JDS started as a parent's support group called "Koyagi-no-Kai" (baby goat) in Tokyo in 1963, and expanded throughout Japan. In 1995 "Koyagi-no-Kai" united with another major support group "Kobato-Kai" (baby dove) and cooperated with many support groups in Japan. JDS was then founded as a non-profit organization. In 2001 it was recognized as a national foundation.

We have about 50 branches, and over 5,600 members including around 550 supporting members. JDS is run by a board of directors and several committees.

Activities of JDS

Consultations

Consultation by phone, letter, fax, and e-mail by experienced parents

Local area coordinators assist individual needs all over Japan. All support coordinators receive annual training to increase their skills.

Infant developmental consultation

This consultation has been conducted on a one-on-one basis since 1985. (charged monthly)

Publications

The "JDS News" bulletin

Published monthly for our members

Down syndrome information booklet Public awareness and information through various media sources

Down syndrome information booklet



"Live Strong and Positive with Your Child: For Parents of Children with Down Syndrome"



"Understanding Down Syndrome and Health Care in Infancy"



"Children Growing up Slowly: Infant Developmental Consultation"



"Health Care in Adulthood"



"JDS NEWS"

Seminars

National Seminars

Since 2001 we have held rotating seminars twice a year around the country. The theme is "Living with a Spontaneous Heart". These seminars are designed to facilitate adulthood by nurturing a well rounded early childhood and school age period.

Adulthood Seminars

Since 2006 we have held seminars once a year for people who work with adults with Down syndrome, counselors, welfare specialists, teachers, and other upcoming professionals.

Other Services

- *National conference (every 2 years) to promote mutual friendship
- *To increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of Down syndrome
- *Supporting establishment of JDS's branches and local parent's groups
- *Contacting government and administrative agencies regarding problems raised about Down syndrome
- *Connection and exchange of information with worldwide organizations

Short Term Events

1. Artworks and performing arts by people with Down syndrome (2000~2005)

Art exhibition, textile fine arts exhibition, dance and music performances have all successfully created public awareness.

2. Learning to ride a bicycle (2006~2011)

This 4-day-program was specially designed by a local university and has had remarkable results.



Art Exhibition "Down to Art" (2003:Tokyo)

For more information
please feel free to contact us at the address below



Japan
Down syndrome
Society

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Step Forward Together with Love and Dignity



by Shoko Kanazawa*



Japan Down syndrome Society

