

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

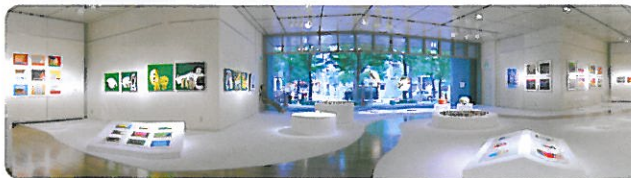
Short Term Events

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

Japan Down syndrome Society (JDS)

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Step Forward Together with Love and Dignity



Organization of people
with Down syndrome,
their families, and supporters

Japan Down syndrome Society

Japanese Society and Related Environment

Japanese society is traditionally conservative, which created an environment where the understanding and attitude towards people with disabilities was not very progressive. However due to the hard work of many parents this attitude has changed tremendously in the last 30 years. We can now see the difference as more people with disabilities are included and accepted in society and even appear in the media.

Health Facts

Almost half the number of children born with Down syndrome have heart defects at birth. Cardiologists have made advances in surgery and medical care allowing many of these children to fully recover from their initial problems. Local physicians also provide a high level of support for the families.

Special Approach

Early diagnosis has made it possible to introduce and implement early intervention programs. Access to the Internet provides a wealth of information and support offered by the Welfare Department, independent groups, and individuals. This media allows parents to access information on worldwide programs (e.g. Portage Program and Washington University Program etc.) and introduces many specialized approaches to education and living.

Education

After infancy children have the opportunity to attend nursery school and kindergarten. Under Japanese law, elementary school and middle school are compulsory, which means all children with Down syndrome will either participate in mainstreaming or special classes.

Welfare

People with Down syndrome receive the same welfare services as other people with disabilities. In addition to receiving health and support services they also receive a reduction in taxes. People over 20 years of age receive a disability pension that continues for life.



Shoko Kanazawa*
(born in 1985)

Active as a professional Japanese calligrapher and calligraphy teacher



Shoichiro Minami
(born in 1972)

Has been studying Karate since the age of fourteen



Mikiko Sato
(born in 1975)

Has been studying "Nihon Buyo" (Japanese dance) for more than ten years



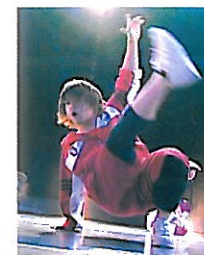
Shoki Sakano
(born in 1986)

Has been competing in triathlons with his father



Mari Kondo, Rumi Naruse, Ayano Sakurai, Mizue Maekawa (from left)

Synchronized swimming team "RU☆AMAMI"



Yu Machidera
(born in 1990)

Would like to become a professional dancer



Yuna Ishiguro
(born in 1989)

Sells her paintings and postcards at various events



Yutaka Mitogawa
(born in 1998)

Enjoys practicing Sumo Wrestling

Gaining Life Skills and Education

Infants & Toddlers (0-5 years old)

In Japan the care and support for children with disabilities has advanced in the last number of years. Before this advance parents had to cope with this situation by themselves. Early intervention programs are now available in many areas. Today, many children are now accepted by nursery school and kindergarten from about 3 years of age.



JDS's "Infant Developmental Consultation"



Yuki Koresawa (born in 2005)
Showing jumbo sweet potatoes on an excursion at a kindergarten



Chie Toshioka (born in 1998)
Enjoys studying in classes with other children with disabilities at elementary school



Shinji Niino (born in 1994)
Enjoys participating in the sports festival at a school for children with disabilities

Childhood (6-15 years old)

Elementary, middle, and high school students have a choice between mainstreaming, integration programs or specialized school for children with disabilities. Although some children go to a regular elementary school at the appropriate age, due to the intense level of study at middle school many children transition into an integration program or specialized school for children with disabilities. Outside of school the children have an opportunity to become involved in many activities, like dancing, music, art, sports activities etc. It is also popular to participate in Special Olympics.

High school (16-18 years old)

High school education is not compulsory in Japan and the entrance exam limits enrollment for students with disabilities. As a result, most parents choose to send their children to specialized schools which cater to their needs. The schools aim is job training and independent living as well as functional academics.

Adulthood (19 and up)

Many people start to work in sheltered employment under the welfare system. The jobs vary from simple tasks such as cleaning, to more difficult jobs in bakeries, and more creative work in arts and craft shops. Recently a job coach system has been made available to provide input to employers and coworkers.

Officially people become adults at the age of 20 in Japan. All people with disabilities have the right to vote and receive a disability pension. As there are only a few group homes and supported living programs, most people live with their family. The life span of people with Down syndrome in Japan is about 50 to 60 years of age.

JDS continues to research various problems and consults with medical specialists, researchers, and parents. A recent problem that is being addressed is the increase in depression and digression in these young adults.



Kazuki Kobayashi (born in 1986)
Graduated from the department of business administration at Ishinomaki Senshu University



Yuta Kamihara (born in 1989)
Participated in the "Seijin Shiki" (coming-of-age) celebration in his hometown



Masahiro Chino (born in 1988)
Working at the fish department at a supermarket

Shinya Kaneko (born in 1981)
Has been working at McDonald's since 2000