

If the prenatal
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Down
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~Your baby isn't changed by this diagnosis.

The existence of a prenatal diagnosis often changes the perspective of a baby, but you should remember that this is still the same child you conceived. Although Down syndrome is now a part of his or her life, it isn't *who* he or she is. You can grieve the loss of the baby for whom you had planned while still preparing to welcome this unique and wonderful child that will always be yours.

~Your baby is still more like other babies than different from them.

The diagnosis of Down syndrome may leave you feeling as if your baby is unexpectedly quite different than the other babies you have had or know. You should remember that he or she will grow and develop just like any other child...perhaps more slowly, but just as surely. AND although you may have some things to learn about Down syndrome, you still need to prepare in all the typical ways to get ready for the birth of this precious person.

~No one can predict how intelligent, successful or independent your baby will be in the future.

In recent years, the availability of early intervention and community-based rehabilitation services as well as more inclusive educational opportunities have allowed individuals with Down syndrome to achieve goals far beyond what was considered possible in the past. You and your baby will benefit from the network of special services available in the community.

~You are not alone.

Understanding support and up-to-date information is available for you now. Like you, we are parents with children who have been diagnosed with Down syndrome and we are here to help.



Be Not Afraid is a network of concerned parents and professionals who have experienced or worked closely with issues surrounding a variety of prenatal diagnoses including Down syndrome. For information visit www.benotafraid.net/nc, and for support, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587 or email benotafraidnc@live.com

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