



Dear DSI members,

Monday 21 March 2016 marks the 11th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day. Each year the voice of people with Down syndrome, and those who live and work with them, grows louder.

We encourage you to choose your own activities and events to help raise awareness of what Down syndrome is, what it means to have Down syndrome, and how people with Down syndrome play a vital role in our lives and communities.

For WSD 2016, DSI will be focusing on:

“My Friends, My Community” – The benefits of inclusive environments for today’s children and tomorrow’s adults

People with Down syndrome, on an equal basis with other people, must be able to enjoy full and equal rights, both as children and adults. This includes the opportunity to participate fully in their communities.

The reality for many is that prevailing negative attitudes result in low expectations, discrimination and exclusion, creating communities where children and adults with Down syndrome cannot integrate successfully with their peers.

But where children with Down syndrome and other disabilities are given opportunities to participate, all children benefit from this and environments of friendship, acceptance, respect for everyone and high expectations are created.

Not only this, but these environments prepare all today’s children for life as tomorrow’s adults, enabling adults with Down syndrome to live, work and participate, with confidence and individual autonomy, fully included in society alongside their friends and peers.

On World Down Syndrome Day, Monday 21 March 2016, join us to encourage children and adults with Down syndrome to say “My Friends, My Community” and get the world talking about the benefits for everyone of inclusive environments.

Our WSD Global Video Event and WSD Conference will both explore this important area of focus and we invite you to join this campaign and adopt it into your plans for WSD 2016.

We will have a number of other initiatives for WSD 2016. Please visit the WSD website www.worlddownsyndromeday.org for more details.

Whatever you do, together we can create a very loud single global voice advocating for the rights, inclusion and well being of people with Down syndrome on 21 March!

Regards
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