

Dear Parent,

Welcome to the SickKids Down Syndrome Clinic!

These resources were created to give you some information about Down Syndrome. It is meant to be a concise and helpful guide. Many parents feel overwhelmed when they find out that their child will develop in a different way from other children. Like other parents who are told their child has Down syndrome, you may find that you do not know where to start, what to read, or where to go first. We also hope that this information will provide you with direction, information, and comfort as you begin to understand what lies ahead for your child and family.

The mandate of our program is to provide comprehensive medical and developmental care to children with Down syndrome and to support their families. We work in collaboration with Surrey Place Centre and Centennial Infant and Child Centre to provide developmental support and guidance, and to coordinate community services. We work alongside your primary care provider to ensure that the necessary health supervision guidelines as outlined by the American Academy of Paediatrics are being followed and to help coordinate medical teams in your child's circle of care. For further information about Down syndrome, please refer to the SickKids About Kids Health website ([www.aboutkidshealth.ca](http://www.aboutkidshealth.ca)) and search "Down syndrome" in their search box (top right hand corner).

The program's schedule of visits will vary according to your child's individual needs and depending on when your child is first referred to the clinic. At the present time, our program is following children until their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday/entry into JK (Junior Kindergarten).

**Mission:**

The Down Syndrome Clinic is designed to facilitate comprehensive support to families to give their child the best start at life, through integration of medical care, education and research.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the care provided or if you have a non-urgent medical problem, please do not hesitate to contact our clinic.

Sincerely yours,

The Down Syndrome Clinic Team

SickKids:

**Physicians:** Nirit Bernhard MSc, MD FRCP(C), Medical Director, Staff Paediatrician

Joelene Huber MD, PhD, FRCP(C), Developmental Paediatrician

**Clinic Nurse:** Alison McAuley, RN

**Social Worker:** Nimrita Sangha, MSW, MBA

**Clinic Coordinator:** Lisa Lledo -Rosa

Surrey Place:

**Intake Service Coordinators:** Melanie Aristedou, Miriam Propas, Nicole Staples-Dorey and Elizabeth Malinowski

**Early Interventionists:** Geanna Georgescu, Edite Pointes, Kathy Schlender and Andrea Seater

Centennial Infant and Child Centre:

**Centre Manager:** Kim Clarke

**Early Interventionists:** Beverly Davis