

MAY, 2000

ADAMS COUNTY CHILD HEALTH NOTES:

Adams County Child Health Notes is distributed by Adams County Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) and Adams County Health District. This newsletter provides physicians and nurse practitioners with current information regarding identification and management of special health issues for children. Contributing agencies and programs include: Adams County Health District - Adams County ICC - Department of Health - Children With Special Health Care Needs Program (Contract #N08400), Univ. of Washington - Center on Human Development and Disability, Whatcom County Medical Home Team. Additional Child Health Notes are available at <http://depts.washington.edu/medhome/>.



"We thought our lives would change forever the instant they told us our baby had Down syndrome. It is something you never forget, hearing news like that.

Our doctor connected us with Parent to Parent. It really helped meeting others who had kids with Down syndrome. It made the future not so scary. I don't know what we would have done without the support of other parents."

Parents of a child with Down syndrome

PRIMARY CARE OF INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME

Down syndrome is caused by triplicate material of chromosome 21. Children with Down syndrome present with common physical features and a varying degree of mental retardation. There is a high incidence of congenital cardiac defects, newborn transient myelodysplasia, and gastrointestinal atresias. Primary care providers are reminded to consider the following during routine well-child examinations.:

- Routine health maintenance is important because infants and children with Down syndrome are at greater risk for: otitis media, hearing loss, thyroid disease, eye disease and refractive errors, feeding difficulties, dental problems, and leukomoid reactions.
- Growth parameters should be plotted at each visit using a Down syndrome growth curve.
- Motor, language, social, and adaptive skills should be assessed at each visit using a parent questionnaire and/or office administered developmental screening tool.
- Allow time for family support during each visit. Assure that the family is familiar with support programs including, parent to parent support, Down syndrome programs, and sibling support. Refer newborns and their family to the lead family resource coordinator in the county and/or early intervention services. Check to see if families have enrolled in the SSI program and Washington State DDD services.

LOCAL RESOURCES

Adams County Health District
Columbia Basin Parent to Parent

659-3317 OR 488-2031
349-7127

REGIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Washington State Parent to Parent
Father's Network
Sibling Support Project

1-800-821-5927
www.fathersnetwork.org
www.chmc.org/departmt/sibsupp/

INTERNET RESOURCES

Healthcare Guidelines for Primary Care:

- AAP Down Syndrome Guidelines
- AAFP: Primary Care of Infants and Young Children with Down Syndrome
- Down Syndrome Health Issues

www.aap.org/policy/0024.html/
www.aafp.org/afp/990115ap/381.html/

www.ds-health.com

Family Resources:

- National Down Syndrome Society
- Down Syndrome WWW page

www.ndss.org/
www.nas.com/downsyn

ADAMS COUNTY RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT

- **For children under age three:** Contact: Adams County Health District
- **For children age three and older:** Contact: Local school district

District:	Phone	Fax	District:	Phone	Fax
Othello	488-2659	488-5876	Ritzville	659-0232	659-0927
Lind	677-3481	677-3463	Washtucna	646-3237	646-3249

SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:

- **Local:** Adams County Health District 659-3317 or 488-2031
- **Regional:** Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center
 Health Professional Hotline (800) 293-2462
 Parent Resource Line (877) 526-2500
- Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program www.wa.gov/shs/iteip/iteip.html
- **National/
Internet:** AAP Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics www.dbpeds.org/
 American Family Physician www.aafp.org
 American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry www.aacap.org.htm
 Family Village www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/
 Family Voices www.familyvoices.org

** Adams County Health District has a library of information for children with special health care needs on a variety of topics. Included in this library are books on Down Syndrome, one is in Spanish. These books are available to providers and families on loan. Please contact the Health District if interested.*

**There have been three recent trainings occurring in our County which may be of interest to you:*

-Public Health Nurses, Family Resources Coordinators and others received training on the use and interpretation of the MTI Photoscreener in February. There is a photoscreener available for use in Adams County. Please contact the health district if interested in having children at risk for vision problems screened.

-A training on using tools to document vision and hearing concerns in infants and toddlers was offered in our county in April with nurses and FRC's receiving this training.

-A training was offered to child care providers in May on "Early Childhood Development, What to Observe and When to Worry".

Call the health district if more details are needed about these trainings and how they can benefit you as a provider.

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