

National Down Syndrome Society
Changing Lives: Down Syndrome & the Health Care Professional

Physical Characteristics of Down Syndrome

While the only way to accurately diagnose Down syndrome is through a chromosomal karyotype, certain physical features may be present in these individuals:

- Muscle hypotonia
- Flat facial profile
- Epicanthal folds
- Hyperflexibility
- Dysplastic ear
- Oblique palpebral fissures
- Single crease across center of palm
- Dysplastic middle phalanx of the fifth finger
- Excessive space between the first and second toes
- Enlarged tongue compared to mouth size

Keep in mind that many of these characteristics are also present in the general population, therefore, assumptions should never be made solely on these traits.