

Delivering a Down syndrome Diagnosis

Suggested language to use and information to provide when delivering a diagnosis:



- Offer congratulations first.
- “It appears your baby may have [Down syndrome]. We will run some tests to confirm this diagnosis” or “The test results show that your baby has [Down syndrome].”
- Offer encouragement and offer positive literature and support information.
- “After you have had some time alone, I will come back and answer any questions you have.”
- Offer a Parent’s Diagnosis Guide as a first resource and share the Up Side of Downs’ contact information.

Delivering A Diagnosis Talking Points



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- Give the diagnosis in person with BOTH parents present.
- If giving the diagnosis after the birth of the baby, give parents time with the child first.
- Do not give a positive diagnosis until definitive test results are in hand.
- Offer to come back later to answer questions. Bring literature & resource information.
- Do not presume to predict what a child's life will be like. Offer positive information.

Supporting & Celebrating Down Syndrome in Northeast Ohio