

God Sent To Me An Angel

God sent to me an Angel,
It had a broken wing.
I bent my head and wondered
“How could God do such a thing?”
When I asked the Father
Why He sent this child to me,
The answer was forthcoming,
He said “Listen and you’ll see.”
“My children are all precious,
And none is like the rest.
Each one to me is special,
And the least is as the best.
I send each one from Heaven
And I place it in the care
Of those who know my mercy,
Those with love to spare.
Sometimes I take them back again.
Sometimes I let them stay.
No matter what may happen
I am never far away.
So if you find an Angel
And you don’t know what to do,
Remember, I am with you,
Love is all I ask of you.”
Paul Dammann

Associations & Organizations

Down Syndrome Association of Houston
(713) 682-7237
www.dsah.org

The ARC of Greater Houston
(713) 957-1600
www.thearcofgreaterhouston.com

Early Childhood Intervention
(713) 970-4900
www.eci.state.tx.us

The Rise School of Houston
(713) 532-RISE
www.riseschool.org

National Adoption Center
1-800-TO-ADOPT
www.adopt.org

Photographs

Cover: Amaya (left) has chromosome 18q deletion syndrome and Abigail (right) has Down syndrome

Inside left flap: Maggie has brain damage as a result of chemotherapy

Inside, middle: Noble (top) and Carston (bottom) have Down syndrome

Inside right flap: Meredith (right) has a mild case of cerebral palsy and is a teacher’s aid for children like Sarah (left) at the Rise School of Houston

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Our mission is to minister and provide support and information to families and prospective families of children with disabilities.

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Having a Child with Special Needs



An informational brochure presented by:



*Celebrating the blessing of
Children with special needs*

What Does My Child Have?

• What are “special needs”?

“Special needs” are the special or unique, out-of-the-ordinary concerns created by a person’s medical, physical, mental, or developmental condition or disability.* A child may be born with special needs or may develop special needs for various reasons sometime after birth.



A child may be born with special needs as a result of a birth defect, a problem that happens while the baby is developing in the mother's body.

A child may also develop special needs after birth. This situation can arise as a result of various circumstances, including illness or accident.

• What should I expect?

You should expect your child will be as different and unpredictable as any other child. There will be ups and downs; accomplishments and failures; good days and bad. In reality, every child has a very special need for love, acceptance and a feeling of belonging from the other members of its family. A child with a disability is no different. The outlook for children with special needs has never been brighter. Advances in medicine, early intervention programs, specialized schools, and college programs geared toward individuals with disabilities allow persons with special needs to live fuller, longer and healthier lives.

• What do I do next?

Give yourself permission to feel all the things you are feeling—grief, guilt, sadness, confusion, anger—then realize the miracle you have just witnessed and enjoy the birth of your beautiful new baby! If you need someone to talk to, please call us and we will get you in touch with a parent of a child with special needs who can answer many of your questions and understand your feelings and concerns. We can also provide you with information about the importance of early intervention and medical testing that may need to be done.

Facts About Special Needs

- In the United States, about 3% of babies are born with special needs**
- “Neural tube defects”, which are defects of the spine (spina bifida) and brain (anencephaly), affect about 1 in 1,000 pregnancies**
- Birth defects of the lip and roof of the mouth are also common affecting about 1 in 700 to 1,000 babies in many parts of the world**
- Genetic conditions, such as Down syndrome, affect about 1 in 800 babies**
- Some children with special needs are diagnosed with a particular disability before birth, some at the time of birth, some during the first year of life, and some are never diagnosed with a particular disability at all
- There is a wide variation in mental abilities, behavior and physical development in individuals with special needs; each individual has his or her own unique personality, capabilities and talents
- Individuals with special needs benefit from loving homes, early intervention, special education, appropriate medical care and positive public attitudes



Photo by: Laura Popiel Photography

“...children are a gift of the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward.” Psalm 127:3, NASV

“So the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord?”” Exodus 4:11, NKJV

*Source: Center for the Improvement of Child Caring

**Source: National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities

Why Me?

Because you were chosen. You were chosen by God to have a child that will love you, inspire you and save you, if you let them. The parent of a child with special needs will never take for granted a spoken word; never consider a step ordinary; never consider an accomplishment minor. You may not realize it yet, but you are so blessed. When you are ready, you will see it - your child will show you.

In the meantime, if you need help, encouragement, support, prayers or just someone to listen to your fears and concerns, please call us. You are not alone. We have caring people ready and willing to answer any questions you may have and help in any way you may need. You may also visit our web site at www.fathersjoy.org.



God Can Help

When a child is diagnosed with a disability, many parents feel initially that they are unequipped or unable to handle raising such a child. However, God can and will provide you the strength and means for raising any child, if you have faith. We encourage you to pray about your situation and ask God for guidance about your decision.

If you still feel you are unable to raise your child, we encourage you to consider alternatives, such as adoption. There are many families who want to adopt a child with special needs. There are organizations, such as the National Adoption Center, that specialize in placing children with special needs.