

Seminar 10: **Supporting Parents with a Diagnosis of Down's Syndrome**

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Down's Syndrome Scotland are with you from the beginning through every age and stage.

We are the only Scottish charity focused solely on the needs of people with Down's syndrome (Ds) and their family carers. We provide information, support and services for people with Ds, their families, carers and those with a professional interest. We also seek to improve public knowledge and understanding of Down's syndrome and to champion the rights of people with Ds. Our Family Support Service provides "all through life" support to families throughout Scotland. Supporting expectant and new parents is a key part of our work and we want to ensure that they can all rely on outstanding care within maternity services wherever they live.

The offer of pre-natal screening and testing for Down's syndrome is a routine part of antenatal care offered in Scotland and it is our policy to maintain neutrality as a recognised source of impartial information. We respect parents' right to make choices about antenatal tests and their outcomes and support the people involved whatever their personal decision. Our purpose is to ensure that the prenatal screening/testing process informs all potential parents of the challenges and joys of having a child with Down's syndrome. We believe that up-to-date, accurate information should be provided in a balanced way by well trained professionals to parents both before and during the screening process.

We offer to support expectant parents who contact the organisation during this time, through our family support service. In addition we also produce baby packs that are provided to antenatal clinics and maternity units throughout Scotland to ensure that parents have access to the right information and support when they need it which can be either during screening or after a confirmed diagnosis (pre- or post-birth).
