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Chromie's Chronicles



Why Some Stories Have an Extra Chapter

A Children's Book Exploring Down Syndrome

by Monica Araujo

Contributor:
Samantha Schnell



Illustrations by:
Katinka Strydom

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University of Pretoria, Lynnwood Avenue, Hatfield, Pretoria, South Africa
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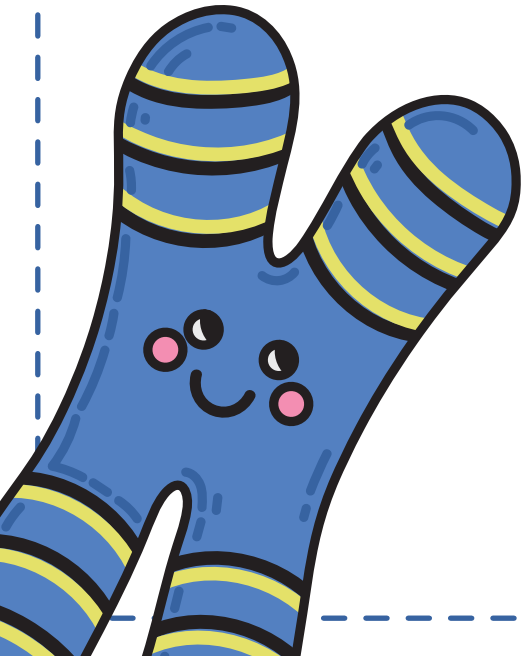


Why Some Stories Have an Extra Chapter

A Children's Book Exploring Down Syndrome

Meet Chromie the Chromosome

Chromie is a tiny, cheerful guide who lives inside your body and carries the special code that makes you, you!



Chromie is here to teach you how your body grows, works, and what makes every person unique.

Our genetic information is the special code
inside of you and me.



This code helps our bodies grow, move and be
who we are meant to be.

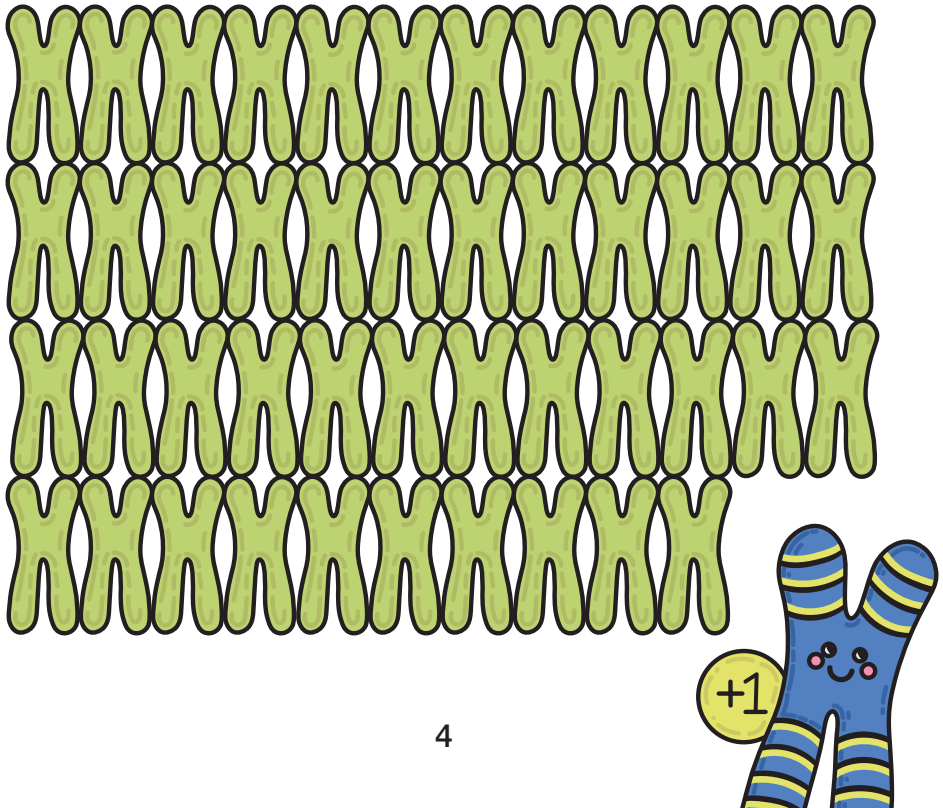
The chapters of this code are called chromosomes, and almost every person has 46 of them. Just like the chapters in a story book.



We get our chromosomes from our mother and our father. Half from each, just like a team!



But sometimes, a person is born with an extra chromosome. Instead of 46, they have 47.



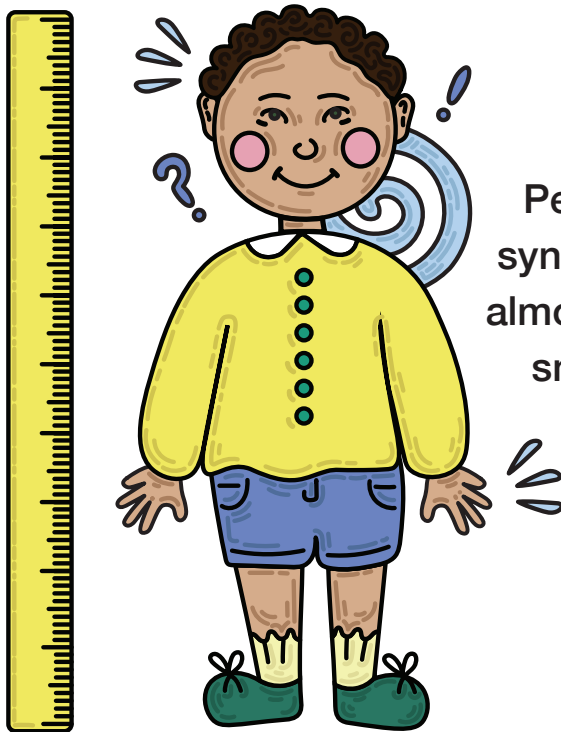
When a person is born with an extra copy of chromosome 21, we say that they have Down syndrome.





It's like having an extra chapter in your book.
It doesn't mean something is wrong. It just
means your story is a little different.

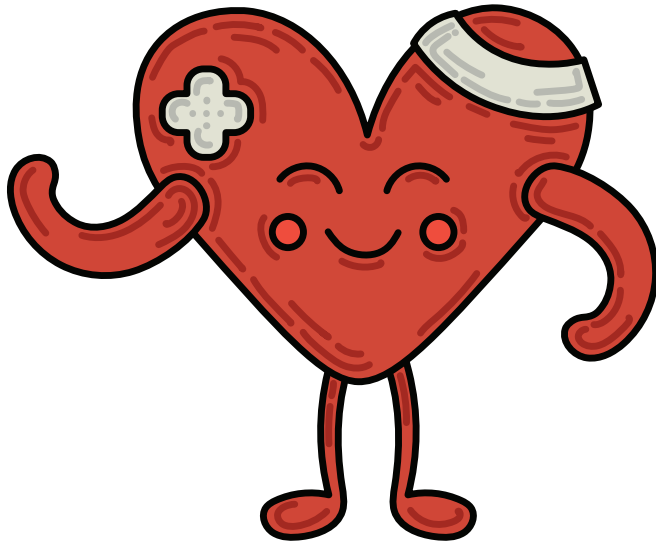
This extra chapter can change how someone looks, how they learn and how their body works.



People with Down syndrome might have almond-shaped eyes, smaller hands or shorter height.

They might need a little extra help when learning to speak, walk or read.





Sometimes, their heart or muscles need more care, so they might visit the hospital more often or see special doctors.



But just like you, they have favourite games,
songs they love and big dreams.

Down syndrome is not something you can catch,
and it's not something anyone did to cause it.



It just happens naturally, as part of that person's
very own story.



People with Down syndrome can go to school, have friends, play sports and grow up to work and live happy lives.

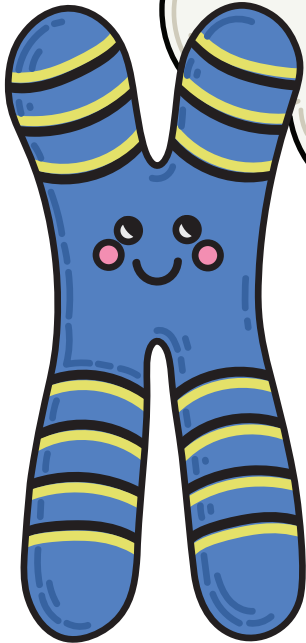
Doctors, teachers and families all work together
to help them shine.



And remember, having an extra chromosome
doesn't make someone less amazing.



It just makes them uniquely them.



Can you think of something wonderful about someone you know who has Down syndrome?



See you in our
next chronicle!

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