



DOWN SYNDROME OF LOUISVILLE

SERVING LOCALLY, SHARING GLOBALLY

WELCOME PACKET



A GUIDE TO OUR SERVICES

WELCOME



Welcome to the family!

ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMUNITY AT DOWN SYNDROME OF LOUISVILLE, WE'D LIKE TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

At Down Syndrome of Louisville, our goal is to act as a support system for you as you navigate your local services and programs. This booklet offers a brief overview of our services, and how we can support you throughout your individual's life, from prenatal diagnosis to legacy.



OUR MISSION

Our mission at Down Syndrome of Louisville is to support, educate, and advocate for individuals with Down syndrome. We aim to equip families with the tools needed to help their child reach their full potential.



we care.
we have fun.
we are dependable.
we stay open.
we don't settle.

OUR VISION

We envision a world where every individual with Down syndrome lives a meaningful life, full of family, friends and achievement. As a lifelong learning center, Down Syndrome of Louisville provides services geared towards individuals with Down syndrome in many aspects of life, from birth to adulthood. Our comprehensive services include developmental and educational programs specifically curated with our members in mind, relying on proven research to create programs that address the unique needs of individuals with Down syndrome. By doing so, we can help our members create meaningful lives. We advocate for full rights in education and in daily life for all our members; regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or age.



OUR STORY

1977

Our founder, Mary Carter, began to focus on the cognitive and physical development of young children with Down syndrome. Carter began Kentucky's first Early Intervention program to support children with Down syndrome and their families.

1980's

Jean Bryson began teaching with Mary Carter and upon her passing took over the program. Jean and a group of parents wanted something better for their children; many of these families are still active in DSL today.

1994

DSL officially became a 501c3 in May.



**DOWN SYNDROME
OF LOUISVILLE**

2003

Down Syndrome of Louisville expanded programming to include educational, physical, and personal development, health and wellness, and social programming for children and adults of all ages.

2011

DSL opens its new campus, the first facility in the world to offer comprehensive educational and developmental programming for individuals with Down syndrome across their entire lifespan.

2011

Also in 2011, DSL merged with the Down Syndrome Support Association of Southern Indiana. DSL's second Lifelong Learning Center is located in New Albany, Indiana.

2016

DSL earned a prestigious Gold Certificate of accreditation from Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action. DSL is one of only a few Down syndrome associations in the country to receive this accreditation.

TODAY

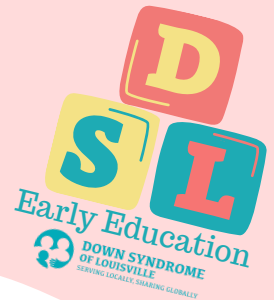
Down Syndrome of Louisville remains one of the largest Down syndrome associations in the world, offering more than 50 programs, events and services to over 1,300 families.



LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER

EARLY EDUCATION

Birth to five years is a vital part of a child's development; here at DSL we have several programs designed to foster your child's development through targeted instruction, including early education group classes and an on-site preschool for young children with Down syndrome.



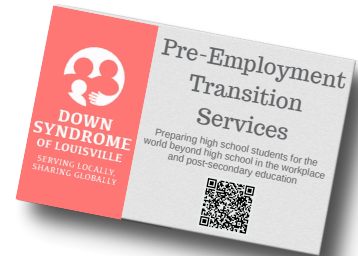
SCHOOL - AGE

Whether your child attends public or private schools, navigating education can be a challenge. At DSL, we're here to offer support with your child's school to ensure their educational needs are met. We also offer a summer program for our school aged members, and several Saturday School opportunities throughout the academic year.



TEENS

Teenage years are a crucial time for growth. DSL offers a variety of programs and transitional services to help teens develop responsibility, build social skills, and prepare for adulthood. Some of our teen services include Teen Club, Boogie Down Crew, and Pre-Employment Training.



ADULTS

DSL offers a variety of social, developmental, and educational services to help our members reach their full potential. Our support doesn't end at adulthood—at DSL, we're committed to helping individuals continue to grow in meaningful ways. Adult services include, but are not limited to, The Academy, College Connections, Living & Learning, Book Club, Career Solutions, Academic Tutoring, and Self-Advocacy opportunities.



FAMILY SUPPORT

HOW OUR ORGANIZATION CAN SUPPORT YOU

We operate as a lifelong learning center, offering services to support our families from birth to adulthood. Here's a few of the services we can provide to you!

CONNECTING WITH FAMILIES

It takes a village- so come find yours with DSL! Get involved with our Family Mentor Program, and meet local families at our various events and classes.

IEP SUPPORT

Navigating your child's education can be a challenge, but you don't need to go it alone! Our staff offers direct collaboration with your child's school to ensure their educational needs are met.

ADULT DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

DSL offers a day program for adults with DS that have completed high school. We offer this program in KY and IN.

EDUCATIONAL AND MEDICAL RESOURCES

We believe in arming our families with the information they need to support their child with disabilities, including but not limited to educational and medical resources related to those with DS.

COME VISIT US!

Interested in visiting our campus and learning more about how we can support you? Give us a call and schedule a tour! We're happy to answer questions about our programs and help you navigate the many different resources available to you.



RESOURCES

DSL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

We offer a multitude of classes and programs for our families. Visit our website to learn more about our services!

SSI DISABILITY

In order to receive Medicaid, you must first apply for and receive an approval or denial for Supplemental Security Income.

MEDICAID WAIVERS

Kentucky and Indiana both provide waivers through Medicaid for families of children with disabilities. The waitlist for these waivers typically takes years, so we encourage all families to apply as soon as possible.

GUARDIANSHIP AND ALTERNATIVES

One of the most important things to think about when your member is about to turn 18 is establishing legal guardianship or conservatorship. Check out resources on our website for more information!



CONTACT INFORMATION

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DSofLou.org

New Family Form



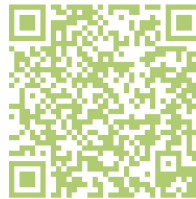
Fill out our New Family Connection Form to stay in touch with DSL!

School Age Services



Use this QR code to check out our services for our school aged members!

Teen Services



Learn more about our programming for teens!

Adult Services



Follow this QR code for information about our adult programs.