

**LANGUAGE TO  
USE WHEN  
REFERRING TO A  
PERSON WITH  
DOWN'S  
SYNDROME**



# **Remember Person First**

**Did you know Ellie has /was  
born with Down's  
Syndrome.**

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**She doesn't suffer with it!**

**You can ask her a question  
directly, just give her a little  
longer to respond**



# Talking About Down's Syndrome?



Imagine Sophie, who has Down's Syndrome, is in the room with you, what would you say?

No thank you	Yes please
risk	chance/probability
abnormality/disease/problem/disorder	difference/variation/condition
good/bad difficult news	expected/unexpected or different news
normal	typical/typically developing
suffer	have
a Down's a Down's baby	a baby with Down's Syndrome
mental handicap retarded	with a learning disability
severely affected	more complex

## REMEMBER

Use high/low chance for **screening** results e.g. NIPT/combined test  
Use positive or negative for **diagnostic** results e.g. Amnio/CVS

