# Count Us In: Growing Up with Down Syndrome

Growing up with Down syndrome can be challenging, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. Here's what it's like to grow up with Down syndrome, from the challenges to the joys.



#### Count Us In: Growing Up with Down Syndrome

by Jason Kingsley

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#### The Challenges

There are no doubt some challenges that come with growing up with Down syndrome. These can include:

- Developmental delays. Children with Down syndrome often experience delays in reaching developmental milestones, such as walking, talking, and reading.
- Learning disabilities. Children with Down syndrome may also have learning disabilities, which can make it difficult for them to learn in a

traditional school setting.

- Health problems. Children with Down syndrome are more likely to have certain health problems, such as heart defects, hearing loss, and vision problems.
- Social challenges. Children with Down syndrome may also face social challenges, such as being bullied or excluded from activities.

#### The Joys

Despite the challenges, there are also many joys that come with growing up with Down syndrome. These can include:

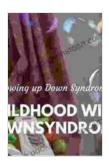
- Unconditional love. Children with Down syndrome are often incredibly loving and affectionate.
- Unique personalities. Children with Down syndrome have their own unique personalities and perspectives on the world.
- A sense of accomplishment. When children with Down syndrome achieve something, it is a major accomplishment for them and their families.
- Making a difference. Children with Down syndrome can make a
  difference in the world by raising awareness of their condition and by
  showing others that people with disabilities are just like everyone else.

### **Growing Up**

As children with Down syndrome grow up, they face new challenges and joys. These can include:

- Adolescence. Adolescence can be a challenging time for all children, but it can be especially challenging for children with Down syndrome. They may experience new social pressures and may struggle with their identity.
- Adulthood. Adulthood can be a time of great independence for children with Down syndrome. They may move out of their parents' home, get a job, and start a family of their own.
- Aging. As people with Down syndrome age, they may experience some of the same challenges as other seniors, such as declining health and cognitive function. However, they may also experience unique challenges, such as increased risk for dementia.

Growing up with Down syndrome can be challenging, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. Children with Down syndrome face unique challenges, but they also have unique strengths and abilities. With the right support, they can live happy and fulfilling lives.



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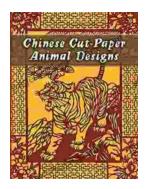
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