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Going to College: The Experiences of a Young Woman With Down Syndrome

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Abstract

In this qualitative study the college experience of an individual with Down syndrome was examined. The student audited two academic courses and participated in various nonacademic campus activities. The investigation yielded multiple themes within the following areas of importance: (a) the meaning of going to college, (b) the development and meaning of college friendships, (c) negotiation of the academic program, and (d) enrichment of the lives of those involved. The findings showed benefits to both the student's personal and professional development. The struggles and successes within each area of importance are described and implications for each are discussed.

American Association on Mental Retardation

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Down syndrome is usually caused by three copies of chromosome 21. Chromosomal abnormalities. We know that 10 to 30 percent of all fertilized human eggs contain the wrong number of chromosomes. A woman is born with all the eggs she will ever have, and they age as she ages. This is different from men, who produce new sperm on a regular basis. By the time a woman reaches 40, as many as 60 percent of her eggs will contain an abnormal number of chromosomes. In other words, chromosomal abnormalities are more likely to develop in the eggs of older women. But why should that be? Down syndrome is a condition in which a person has an extra chromosome. Learn more facts about Down Syndrome. Even though people with Down syndrome might act and look similar, each person has different abilities. People with Down syndrome usually have an IQ (a measure of intelligence) in the mildly-to-moderately low range and are slower to speak than other children. Some common physical features of Down syndrome include: A flattened face, especially the bridge of the nose. A young woman with Down syndrome whose reaction to learning she was going to college went viral in April is now ready to begin classes. Rachel Grace starts at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania on Monday. The student from Lansdale, Pennsylvania, looked into attending four schools and ultimately decided to attend ESU. The Heartwarming Moment a Girl With Down Syndrome Finds Out She's Going to College. Model With Down Syndrome 'Excited' to Walk in New York Fashion Week. Although she's an incoming freshman and has never lived on her own before, Grace said she's no People with Down syndrome have an extra chromosome. The nucleus of a typical cell contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, or 46 total chromosomes. Each of these chromosomes determines something about you, from your hair color to your sex. Younger women have babies more frequently, so the number of babies with Down syndrome are higher in that group. However, moms who are older than 35 are more likely to have a baby affected by the condition. While Down syndrome can't be cured, treatment and teaching life skills can go a long way to improve the child's — and eventually the adult's — quality of life. Treatment programs often include physical, speech, and occupational therapies, life skills classes, and educational opportunities.