

# Down Syndrome



Indiana™

## Ask the Expert: Chance of having Second Child with Ds

**Q. If you already have a child with Down syndrome, what are the chances that your next child will have Down syndrome?**

**A** The risk of recurrence in a subsequent pregnancy for a family that has had one child with Down syndrome is dependent on several factors. First the results of the chromosome analysis are important and one needs to know if the karyotype is a translocation, nondisjunction or mosaicism. The most common is non-disjunction and the recurrence risk is usually quoted as about 1%. This however is also dependent on the mother's age so for mother's over 35-40, the risk is affected according to her age as well.

For translocation, the risk of recurrence is dependent on whether one of the parents is a carrier or if the translocation was de novo and occurs only in the baby. If the parent is a carrier, the recurrence risk is dependent on which parent is the carrier and to which chromosome the 21 is translocated.

Clearly this can be complicated and we always recommend the family be seen by a genetic counselor for a complete explanation that is pertinent to their situation.

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This information provided courtesy of Down Syndrome Indiana.

For More information, please contact Down Syndrome Indiana at [www.dsindiana.org](http://www.dsindiana.org)  
or call 317-925-7617.