

North American Inclusion Month

NAIM

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Two Words

By Cheryl Ward

Suggested ages: 8th Grade +

Your birth brought us closer
As death lingered near
Your strength as you struggled
Gave flight to our fear

Down syndrome they whispered
Days after your birth
Two words that portrayed
A false image of your worth

Those words did not tell us
Of the love you would bring
Or the power your smile has
To make our hearts sing

Down syndrome didn't tell us
What kind of child you would be
Filled with amazing surprises
Shared with your father and me

Hard work, determination,
teaching and learning, it's true
Down syndrome means much of this
For each of us, not just you

Wonder child, spirited child
You've grown and you've thrived
Your every achievement
Still fills us with pride



For more information contact:
Yachad, The National Jewish Council for Disabilities



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No matter the voice used
Two words can't describe
The fullness you've added
To so many lives

Down syndrome, those frightening words
Whispered so long ago
Never did they prepare me
For the person I know now

Discussion Questions

- 1) What is the authors message about the label of "Down syndrome"?
- 2) Have you ever heard of Down Syndrome?
- 3) What do you know about people who have Down Syndrome?
- 4) Do you know anyone who has Down Syndrome? Tell us some positive traits about this him or her?
- 5) Why are labels so harmful to us?
- 6) What is a label that people have labeled you that you do not like?
- 7) What do you think you can do to help change people's opinions about you?
- 8) What do you think you can do in the future about labeling people who are different?
- 9) Sometimes when you get to know someone or something better, it's very different than you thought and your first impression, has that ever happened to you? Would you be willing to share that story with the group?
- 10) How does this piece relate to the message of NAIM: North American Inclusion Month



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