

Social Questions

You're getting ready to leave for college and move away from home for the first time. As you're packing your things, you begin to wonder about your brother, who has Down syndrome, and what his future will be like. Will he go to college? What will he do after high school? Where will he live? What can you do to get some answers to your questions?

This summer you're just about to begin your very first summer job! You will be working as a lifeguard—your dream summer job. But then you begin to wonder if your sister, Jackie, who has Down syndrome, will ever have a cool job of her own one day that she's able to be excited about. What can you do to discuss your concerns?

Imagine you're the parent of two sons, one of whom has Down syndrome and the other does not:

Your seventh-grade son, Tim, comes home from school quite upset about getting a B+ on his recent biology exam. Tim prides himself on always getting A's. You begin to wonder if Tim is trying to overcompensate in his pursuit of perfection, for his brother with Down syndrome. How would you approach this with Tim?

Here are some notes on these questions:

- All of the topics in these questions are covered in the "Topics" section of this site!
- People with Down syndrome live in a lot of different settings! Some prefer to stay home with their parents, live with other family members, live with roommates in a group home, or live by themselves. Talk with your sibling and family about their goals so you know how to help your sibling reach their goals!
- People with Down syndrome can get all sorts of really cool jobs! Sometimes it can be difficult for people with Down syndrome to find a job because people don't always understand everything they're capable of, but your sibling can show them quickly all they have to offer! There are some great employment resources through information on Employment First states and NDSC
- Approach the situation with Tim carefully. Sometimes brothers and sisters may not even realize their pressure for perfection, so the best thing you can do as a parent is to reassure Tim that he is enough and perfect in your eyes, no matter if he gets an A or a B. Remind him of all the great things he does and his worth beyond those accomplishments.