My Friend Has Down Syndrome (Let's Talk About It Series)
**Synopsis**

The sensitively written Let's Talk About It Books encourage preschool-age and early-grades children to explore their feelings, deal with problems that trouble them, and understand others who have problems of their own. Each title speaks to a particular concern that children might encounter in the course of growing up. All books in this series have appealing color illustrations on every page, and are available in both English and Spanish language editions. A short section at the back of each book offers related advice to parents. My Friend Has Down Syndrome explores this common chromosomal condition from a child's perspective. Younger children may be confused and have many questions when they encounter kids who have Down syndrome. Here, in this reassuring story, two children, one with Down syndrome and one without, learn that they are both good at different things and that by helping each other overcome their fears and difficulties they can accomplish a great deal together.

**Book Information**

Age Range: 6 - 9 years  
Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)  
Series: Let's Talk About It Series  
Paperback: 32 pages  
Publisher: Barron's Educational Series (October 1, 2008)  
Language: English  
ISBN-10: 9780764140761  
ASIN: 0764140760  
Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 9 x 9 inches  
Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)  
Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars  
Best Sellers Rank: #235,309 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  
#28 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Physical Disabilities  
#160 in Books > Children’s Books > Geography & Cultures > Cultural Studies > General  
#183 in Books > Children’s Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness

**Customer Reviews**

Given the selection of children’s books about Down syndrome, this one really tried to make the grade. I was looking for a book to read to my daughter’s 1st grade class since she has Down


syndrome, and this one is geared to kids maybe a couple of years older than that. The book incorrectly states that a person with Down syndrome is born with an extra gene - it should say "extra chromosome". It also mentions a few stereotypes and other "facts" about Down syndrome that aren't entirely accurate. It would have been a bit better with a little more touch up. I would have preferred photographs of real children, but the drawings, although stereotypical, are quite good. The overall message of the book, that people with Down syndrome might need a little extra help with some things but are very capable people and valuable members of their communities, is great. It is also presented in a way that kids would see as "cool" and easily related to their own experiences.

I got this book for my daughter aged 4. Her brother was born with Down syndrome and I thought she would enjoy it. She loves bedtime stories and I thought it might provoke questions or anxieties she may have about her brother's disability. I loved the book and it's illustrations; very well put together, I think she is a bit young to understand yet but I'm sure it will come out again and again.

A for effort, but it wasn’t as great of a reading tool as I had hoped. Some of the information is wrong (as someone else mentioned) & in general I felt it was lacking a little bit. It didn’t really resonate with my kids (aged 3-6), but I think it would potentially be better for older kids, closer to the age of the kids in the story.

I love the story, the illustrations... everything. My daughter has Down syndrome and she is getting to the age where she is seeking out friends. I purchased this book to help the friendships grow, for the younger ones in our family network that have questions etc. If you have a child with Down syndrome or you know of a child with Down syndrome this is the book to get. It would be a great addition to your classrooms library as well.

My daughter has Down syndrome and I wanted some books to help explain to her classmates about DS. This book is incorrect - it says "a person with Down syndrome is born with an extra gene" when it should say "an extra chromosome". In the parent guide, it states this fact correctly so I don’t know why it is wrong in the story. I think this will confuse kids. It also says "some kids with DS have trouble hearing and seeing things, and some take longer to learn things" which I also thought was incorrect. I just feel that it didn’t paint the most accurate picture of a child with Down syndrome. But the story did show the girl with Down syndrome participating in activities that most kids do which was good.
This story is great for young children! The story is from the perspective of a young girl at camp who gets partnered up with a girl named Tammy who has Down syndrome. Before Tammy begins camp, the counselor talks to the other campers and about the new friend who will be joining them. The children get nervous when they find out that she is different, and are afraid that they will "catch" what she has. The counselor discusses the situation and explains that Tammy is just like them yet she may need some help with certain activities. When she finally arrives the narrator and Tammy start to become great friends. This book is an excellent demonstration of how even though children have disabilities it does not mean that they have to be separated from the rest of their peers. If I were a teacher I would love to have this book in my classroom. I really think this would be an excellent story to read to children since it covers many questions and concerns that children would have if they were first being introduced to a child with Down syndrome. In my classroom I would probably develop a whole lesson around this and have the children take part in making the child’s experience a great one in our classroom. We could discuss the different ways to help the child and ways to make sure she feels comfortable and safe in our classroom. In the back of the book there is a parent guide that goes more in depth about Down syndrome, which I think is an excellent addition to the book. In my classroom I would probably make a copy of this and send it out to any parents who might have questions or would want to discuss the topic more with their child.

This book is a fairly decent introduction for elementary aged kids that some people have Down Syndrome, and the idea that we are more alike than we a different. The book tries it’s best to calm childhood fears about becoming friends with someone with Down Syndrome and I feel in that regard it does it’s job.Unfortunately the 'science' in this book is not all that correct. While this doesn’t detract from the social and emotional concepts the book tries to get across, it does mean that this book is best used as a teaching aid in conjunction with more accurate books..

"My Friend Has Down Syndrome" not only discuss Down syndrome, but also points out all of the differences people with Down syndrome have. As a book for children, it should not point out each difference and it should not say that people with Down syndrome look alike. People with Down syndrome may have common features BUT they look like their families. There are much better books to help teach young kids about Down syndrome.

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