

My name is Eric Matthes. I am 27 years old and I have Down syndrome. It causes me to be a little slower and some people with Down syndrome have health problems, but I'm lucky, I don't. Down syndrome is named after the doctor who identified the condition – Dr. Langdon Down, but it is also called trisomy 21. Human bodies are made up of cells and each cell has 46 chromosomes, but since I have 47 chromosomes, I have Down syndrome. It is a fairly common disability, for every 800 births, one person will be born with it.

When I was a kid in school other kids made fun of my disability and even worse, me. I wore braces on my teeth for a while and they called me names like “brace face, jaws,” and, “train tracks”. What is sad is that even today, fact, just this week, I was riding the Trax in Salt Lake and two high school boys started calling me names and making fun of me. I just ignored them because I now know that they are the ones with the problem, they just don't understand that I am just like them inside. I want to be liked and accepted for who I am just like every one else.

<http://www.powerinyou.org/?id=MzQ5>



in