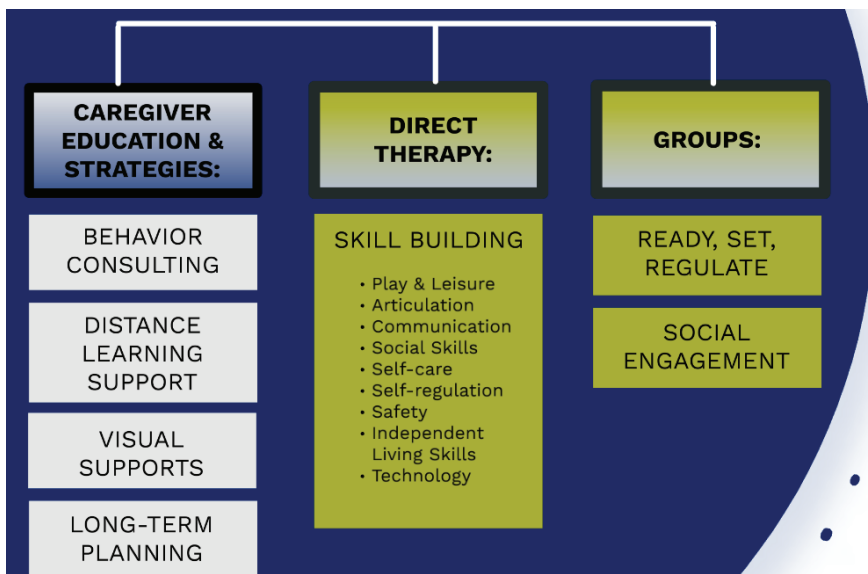




DSG Launches Flexible, Cost-Efficient Pathways Therapy Services



One of the benefits of working remote earlier this year was the opportunity for our Lifespan Services Team to evaluate current services, as well as design new services to better serve people with Down syndrome of all ages. From that, DSG is proud to announce the launch of more flexible, cost-efficient Pathways Therapy Services.

“The Pathways Team is very excited to begin offering virtual services and an expanded service menu,” explains Megan DeBoom, MS, BCBA, LBA, Director of Therapeutic Services. “Based on feedback from families throughout the summer, we have designed offerings that meet the current needs of our self-advocates and families.”

 **GET CONNECTED**

Have you registered on our family portal yet?

It's the only way to ensure you will receive **accurate and timely information** from DSG, as well as **services and support tailored to your family's needs!**

REGISTER HERE >>

Families now have the option to sign up for a variety of options—that don't involve a long-term commitment. “We know that this year has been very challenging for everyone and hope that we can help families navigate the new normal by providing caregiver consulting, skill building (direct therapy), and small group programming,” says DeBoom.

All Access, formerly Pathways Comprehensive, is DSG's most supportive service and provides highly individualized education, strategies and interventions—customized to each family's current needs. Enrollment allows families to design a year of services that works best for their loved one in collaboration with DSG's specialized therapy team consisting of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Occupational Therapist, and Speech-Language Pathologist.

DSG now boasts state-of-the-art equipment to serve either in-person at the office or virtually.

“Due to generous grants, we have also been able to upgrade our technology equipment to ensure that we can provide services safely and in adherence to guidance from community health officials,” says DeBoom. “The Pathways Team is eager to begin providing virtual services to families outside of the Kansas City area, including Central Missouri and Western Kansas.”

Our specialized team is ready to collaborate with you on a customized plan that works best for your family! Call us at (913) 213-5484 or email us at pathways@kcdsg.org today!

Growing to Provide...

Lifespan Services



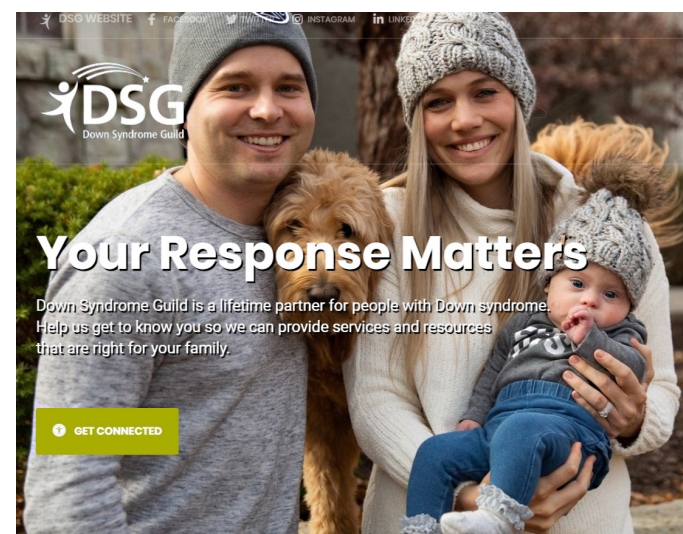
21 Ways to Celebrate!

We all love the crisp weather of fall and welcoming a new season, but the thing we love MOST about October is that it's Down Syndrome Awareness Month! We can all advocate for acceptance, inclusion and the valuing of people with Down syndrome, so here are 21 fun ways to celebrate, raise awareness and foster acceptance throughout our communities! #DSAM2020

1. Get Connected and update your family's information with DSG by visiting <https://mykcdsg.org/>
2. Join our community: DSG is active in social media so follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter and join in the conversation and share our updates!
3. Register, Donate, Create a Team or Join a Team for one of our Step Up for Down Syndrome Walks in Kansas City or Central Missouri. Or commit to our #VirtualChallenge in honor of your loved one!
4. Submit a brief video to vanessa@kcdsg.org that shares who you are stepping up for and why: "I'm stepping up for..."
5. Educate friends, family and community members with facts, stories, news articles or videos about people with Down syndrome.
6. Share videos of news and accomplishments by people with Down syndrome. Find a list online at: www.kcdsg.org/awareness.php
7. Share the "Just Like You Down Syndrome" film to educate and help spread awareness and acceptance.
8. Send a high resolution photo of your loved one to DSG and we may use it in upcoming marketing materials. Email image(s) to vanessa@kcdsg.org
9. Complete our volunteer application to help DSG when in-person events resume.
10. Add your loved one with Down syndrome to the National Institute for Health DS Connect Registry
11. Ask a local restaurant to donate a portion of sales to DSG by hosting a dine out for Down syndrome night.
12. Provide a copy of the Down Syndrome Healthcare Guidelines and an update on your child to your physician.
13. Distribute a "New Parent" packet to your doctor at your next visit. Contact amy@kcdsg.org to arrange a time to pick your packet up at the DSG office!
14. Host a Dress Down Day to raise funds and awareness. Learn more and request a kit
15. Sign up for DSG communications by "opting in" and emailing data@kcdsg.org
16. Ask your mayor for a proclamation recognizing October as Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Download a template you can model from here >>
17. Got SWAG? Purchase DSG swag at our office or at a Step Up Walk.
18. Create a Social Media Blitz by posting a new cover photo, profile picture or fact about Down syndrome each day.
19. Ask Your Local Library to do a #DSAM display of current books on Down syndrome. Contact DSG to request a letter and list of books they can display.
20. Carry Out a Random Act of Kindness one day of the month (OR EVERY DAY!) in honor of your loved one with Down syndrome.
21. Host a Peer Presentation at School for your child. Contact DSG for assistance >>

Let's make this a month to remember!

Your Input is Important: Designing Services and Support with Your Family's Future in Mind



At DSG, our highly-specialized team is not only delivering the services and support you need now (virtually), but they are also designing what your family will need in the future. *But we can't do this without YOU!*

Data Helps Us Understand Your Needs

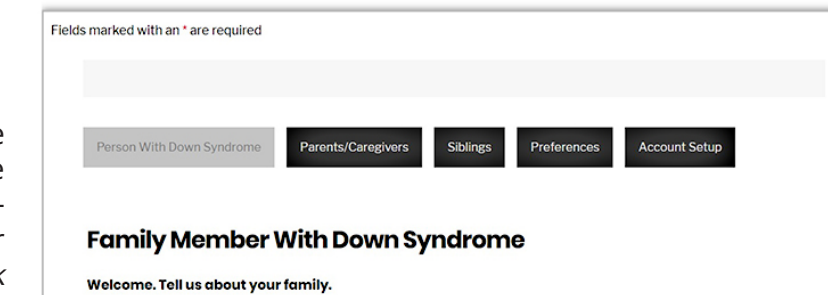
Your family's needs are unique. As we design our services for the future—to take place within our Lifelong Learning Campus—we need your input! To do that, we need you to take a few minutes to let us know about your family, so that we can give you the tools and resources your family needs to thrive.

Help Shape Our Future Services by Visiting mykcdsg.org

By clicking "Get Connected" and filling out our brief (confidential) form, you will directly impact the services and support we design for the future!

Your Help Matters

We are determined to be innovative as we create resources and services that we believe can improve the trajectory of life for people with Down syndrome. The more information we have about our community, the better our services become. *Thank you for your input!*



Have You Signed Up for the 2020-21 Seminar Series?

Our Seminar Series is geared towards parents, educators, therapists, service providers, and administrators. This year, we are online so you can "attend" in the comfort of your own home or office! You will learn how to include, educate, and encourage students with Down syndrome to achieve their full potential. Check out our next sessions!

- **October 8, Down Syndrome 101, 12:30-2:30 pm | Register >>**
- **November 12, Visual Supports For Success, 8:30-10:30 am | Register >>**
- **December 10, Utilizing Technology To Promote Success, 12:30-2:30 pm | Register >>**

On the Horizon

Young Children (ages, 4 - 6)

- Smart Start—Parent/School Relations: Nov. 12 / 6 - 8 PM >>

Teens (ages, 12 - 17)

- Weekly Zoom Gatherings on Thursdays >>

Adults (ages, 18 - 21+)

- Weekly Zoom Gatherings on Tuesdays >>

Central Missouri

- Friday, Oct. 2, Virtual Social Hour, 7 - 8 pm >>
- Weekly Teen/Adults Zoom Gatherings on Tuesdays >>

All Caregivers

2020-21 Seminar Series (ONLINE):

- October 8, Down Syndrome 101, 12:30 - 2:30 pm >>
- November 12, Visual Supports For Success, 8:30 - 10:30 am >>
- December 10, Utilizing Technology To Promote Success, 12:30 - 2:30 pm >>

Mission Moment

"Our Adult Continuing Education program (ACE) was created with a focus on prevocational and vocational learning, as well as gaining skills for independent living.

What we have seen within the first seven weeks of the program is the need for those skills, but also a need to develop a sense of self. Having the opportunity to observe our self-advocates learn and discover themselves as adults has been remarkable.

In just seven short weeks the adults we serve are learning about hobbies and interests they have never explored; better

understanding environments in which they thrive; and beginning to grasp the level of responsibilities that come with being an adult. We look forward to continuing this journey with them.

We, as the ACE team, have learned so much and we cannot wait to apply what we have learned as we grow and enroll new participants!" -Lauren Bingham, BCaBA, LaBA, ACE Program Manager

ACE is now accepting additional enrollment for Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday! Learn more here >>

SAVE THE DATE...

OCT.
11

CENTRAL MO STEP UP WALK

Join us at Cosmopolitan Park to celebrate our families in this region!

OCT.
24

KC STEP UP WALK

Join us at Arrowhead Stadium for our largest fundraiser of the year!

OCT.
24

VIRTUAL STEP UP CHALLENGE

"Step Up" through whatever activity you enjoy most, from any location!

Please note: all events subject to change and/or cancellation due to unforeseen COVID-19 restrictions.

For more information, visit our website at kcdsg.org

