<患上唐氏綜合症的雙胞兒>

Joni及Matt曾經歷過小產，對於懷上雙胞胎，他們均十分雀躍及期待為兒子帶來兩位妹妹。

雙胞胎女兒早產了6星期，出生後一直留在新生兒加護房。三星期後，醫生確診雙胞女兒患上唐氏綜合症，對Joni及Matt來說簡直是晴天霹靂，他們對唐氏綜合症一無所知，不知如何協助女兒。

但當Joni望見一對甜睡中的女兒,她覺得與她們更親近，對她們的愛甚至更深。她勇敢的接受了這個事實，馬上回家搜尋一切關於唐氏綜合症的資料，知悉可能會為女兒帶來不同程度的殘疾，包括:心臟、聽力、甲狀腺問題等。 翌日，夫婦倆請醫生為一對女兒進行全面的檢查，好能及早展開治療。

醫生診斷了雙胞胎Abigail是聾子，Isobel的心臟有一個小孔，兩個人的甲狀腺也不健全。經過醫療團隊的協助，雙胞兒不久已經可以出院回家，一家人的生活逐漸回復正常。

隨著對唐氏綜合症的認識越深，他夫婦倆越發現社會上對此病多集中負面的評價。他們決定要喚起大眾看見唐氏綜合症的正面。 他們遂成立了一個慈善平台 “Twincess”,協助育有唐氏綜合症子女的父母，讓大家互相認識及支持。 他們每年都會籌款以幫助育有唐氏綜合症子女的家庭。

Joni表示: 唐氏綜合症不是一個病，沒有需要覺得羞恥及被人看貶。他們只是其中一個染色體與其他人不同而已。唐氏綜合症的患者及其家人，都為他們感到自豪。

「生命的福音」第14節內提到:

『產前檢查，如果是為了查明胎兒或許需要做那些治療，則在道德上沒有異議，但是產前檢查卻往往成了建議和實行墮胎的機會，這叫做優生保健。…這種心態是只在某些條件下才接受生命，而只要這生命有任何缺陷或疾病，就可以拒絕這生命。

根據同樣的邏輯，那些生來即有嚴重缺陷或疾病的嬰兒，甚至連「餵食」這項最基本的照顧都得不到。而目前基於與墮胎權合理化的同樣主張，某些主張建議連殺嬰的行為都應合理化，這現象更令人心驚。這樣，我們又回到了落後的野蠻時代，那是我們曾經希望永遠拋在身後的。』

[#保護胎兒](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/%E4%BF%9D%E8%AD%B7%E8%83%8E%E5%85%92?source=feed_text&story_id=1182402355167244) [#墮胎](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/%E5%A2%AE%E8%83%8E?source=feed_text&story_id=1182402355167244) [#唐氏綜合症](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/%E5%94%90%E6%B0%8F%E7%B6%9C%E5%90%88%E7%97%87?source=feed_text&story_id=1182402355167244)

<https://www.facebook.com/prolife.dpcmf/posts/1182402355167244>

**Parents of twins with Down syndrome: ‘It is nothing to be ashamed of, pitied or looked down upon’**

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<http://liveactionnews.org/couple-aims-change-stereotypes-syndrome-twin-girls-diagnosed/>

After suffering one miscarriage, Jodi and Matt Parry were thrilled when they found out they were expecting twins in 2010. With one son named Finlay at home, they were anxious to grow their family. Having twins was an unexpected blessing.

The identical twin girls, Abigail and Isobel, arrived six weeks early and were taken straight to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. After three weeks, doctors suspected the girls may have Down syndrome and decided to run some tests. When the girls received the official diagnosis of Down syndrome, their parents were heartbroken and realized they knew nothing about the condition.

“The results arrived, myself and Matt were taken to a room and sat down, [and] the next thing we heard was ‘I’m sorry to tell you both Abigail and Isobel have Down syndrome’,” Jodi Parry wrote in a [**blog post**](http://twincess.co.uk/). “At that point my world fell apart. I was devastated. I felt like someone had just ripped my heart out.”

But when Jodi Parry walked back into the room where her twin daughters were sleeping, she felt an even deeper connection to them. She felt her love was even stronger than before, but she had a seemingly endless list of questions for the doctors.

“I went home and googled it,” she wrote. “I was thrown into a world of meaningless words. I did however read of all the complications that are common with Down syndrome, Heart problems, hearing problems, Thyroid problems and the list went on. The following day I went to the Hospital and said I wanted all these tests [done], so we knew what we were dealing with.”

The couple requested comprehensive testing and learned that Isobel had a small hole in her heart and Abigail was deaf. In addition, both girls had an underactive thyroid. But soon after the girls were cleared to go home, life actually returned to normal with the addition of multiple doctor appointments.

Realizing that the world tends to focus on negatives of Down syndrome, Jodi and Matt decided they wanted to help the world see the positives. They created **[Twincess](http://twincess.co.uk/)**, a campaign that they use to provide advice, resources, and a voice to new and expectant parents of children with Down syndrome.

“It can feel very lonely to be the parents of children with DS,” wrote Jodi Parry. “Although we received a lot of well-meaning advice about the condition from health professionals when our girls were born, what we wanted more than anything was to contact somebody who’d been on the same journey as we were about to embark on. This is why we set up Twincess.”

Twincess is a community for families that allows them to connect with and support one another. As a charitable trust, it also holds events and fundraisers in order to spread awareness and raise money for families of children with Down syndrome.  From talent shows and black-tie events to football tournaments and golf days, Twincess is working to celebrate Down syndrome. According to the website, the long-term goal is to help people see the “ups and not the Down’s” of Down syndrome.

“Down’s Syndrome is not an illness,” wrote Jodi Parry. “It is nothing to be ashamed of, pitied or looked down upon – despite an extra chromosome, people with Down’s Syndrome are no different to anyone else. People with DS, and those around them, are very proud of who they are.”