Even though people with Down Syndrome may have some physical and mental features in common, symptoms of Down Syndrome can range from mild to profound. Usually, mental development and physical development are slower in people with Down Syndrome than in those without it.

A child with Down Syndrome may have eyes that slant upward and small ears that may fold over a little at the top. The mouth may be small, making the tongue appear large. The nose also may be small, with a flattened nasal bridge. Some babies with Down Syndrome have short necks and small hands with short fingers. The child with Down Syndrome is often short and has unusual looseness of the joints. Most children with Down Syndrome will have some, but not all, of these features. The degree of intellectual disability varies widely from mild to moderate to severe to profound.

Down Syndrome is not a condition that can be cured. However, early intervention can help many people with Down Syndrome live productive lives well into adulthood. Children with Down Syndrome can often benefit from speech therapy, occupational therapy, and exercises for gross and fine motor skills. They might also be helped by special education and attention at school.

Although the genetic cause of Down Syndrome is known, there is currently no cure. Corrective surgery for heart defects, gastrointestinal irregularities, and other health issues is necessary for some individuals. Regular health checkups should be scheduled to screen for conditions such as visual impairments, ear infections, hearing loss, hypothyroidism, obesity, and other medical conditions. Individuals with Down Syndrome should be fully included in family and community life.