

Just As I Am

I hit the lottery when Grace chose me to be her mother. The moment I laid eyes on Grace I knew she was to be our forever daughter! She was two days old. The fact that she had Down syndrome was just a fact, not a deterrent. This was not my first rodeo with a child with Down syndrome. Grace's brother, Grant led the way. Grace has proven to be a marvelous inspiration. I wish I had her beautiful brown, almond shaped eyes. Her skin is the color of perfection. But what I really admire is her determination, perseverance, love of learning, enthusiasm for everything, confidence and yes...swag. Grace brings so much to the table of life.

She is my only daughter and someone that I relate to. We do a lot of fun things together. Typical girl stuff. She is my encourager as I am her encourager and we have become good friends.

I think there is a presumption that people with Down syndrome lack proficiency or ability. We need to see the capability and celebrate opportunities. People with Down syndrome might not be able to do everything, but they are peppered in all different faucets, and if you spend the time to really explore that, then you will discover a lot of amazing abilities. Grace has a propensity for organization, and she landed a job at a bank where she can expand and develop that skill set.

Our next step will be for grace to live independently, which will make me really sad, but hopefully we will be close enough where we can still do what we do together. I'll miss her, but I will also celebrate her.