

# down syndrome guild resources

## *Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas* **New Parent Checklist**

- ✓ Get connected with the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas to receive a new parent packet and begin receiving the newsletter to learn about local support services, events and information. Membership is free to parents with children 12 months or younger. 214-267-1374; [www.downsyndromedallas.org](http://www.downsyndromedallas.org)
- ✓ Contact your local Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) provider to arrange for services. To determine which agency services your home area, see the list of agencies at the back of the Down Syndrome Guild phone directory or call the ECI Care Line at 1-800-628-5115
- ✓ Make an appointment for you and your child to visit the Down Syndrome Clinic at Children's Medical Center Dallas - call 214-456-2357. See enclosed brochure. There is typically a three month wait to get an appointment.
- ✓ Find a good pediatrician. Contact the Down Syndrome Clinic at Children's Medical Center Dallas (Joanna Spahis 214-456-2327) or the Down Syndrome Guild for a referral. The American Academy of Pediatrics document entitled "Health Supervision for Children with Down Syndrome" is included in this guide and is designed to assist your pediatrician in caring for a child diagnosed with Down syndrome.
- ✓ Attend a new parent gathering sponsored by the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas. These are informal gatherings for parents/families of children with Down syndrome ages 0-18 months, yet families with children of any age are welcome. They occur once per quarter generally in the months of February, May, August & November. You will receive an invitation in the mail.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the government programs available. See the "Programs in Texas offering Family Support and Services" document in this guide. Other than ECI, there are programs available to families of children with Special Needs. Because some of these programs have long waiting lists, it is beneficial to sign your child up for these services as soon as possible.
- ✓ Community Living and Support Services (CLASS). Provides a broad array of services to individuals with physical disabilities and related conditions occurring before the age of 21 years. Telephone number for information and to place a name on the waiting/interest list: (877) 438-5658.