



DOWN'S SYNDROME JULY NEWSLETTER

ABELISM AND DOWN'S

A lack of knowledge and understanding of people with Down Syndrome and their potential has hindered and continues to create barriers to inclusion. 'Abelism' plays a big part in this.

So what is Abelism?

Abelism is the discrimination and social prejudice against people with physical or mental disabilities in favour of able-bodied people.

The societal presumption that someone who appears to have a disability is less intelligent than others. Abelism can lead to

- Low expectations in education
- lack of reasonable adjustments made in education
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Lack of reasonable adjustments made in employment
- Preconceived ideas of ability

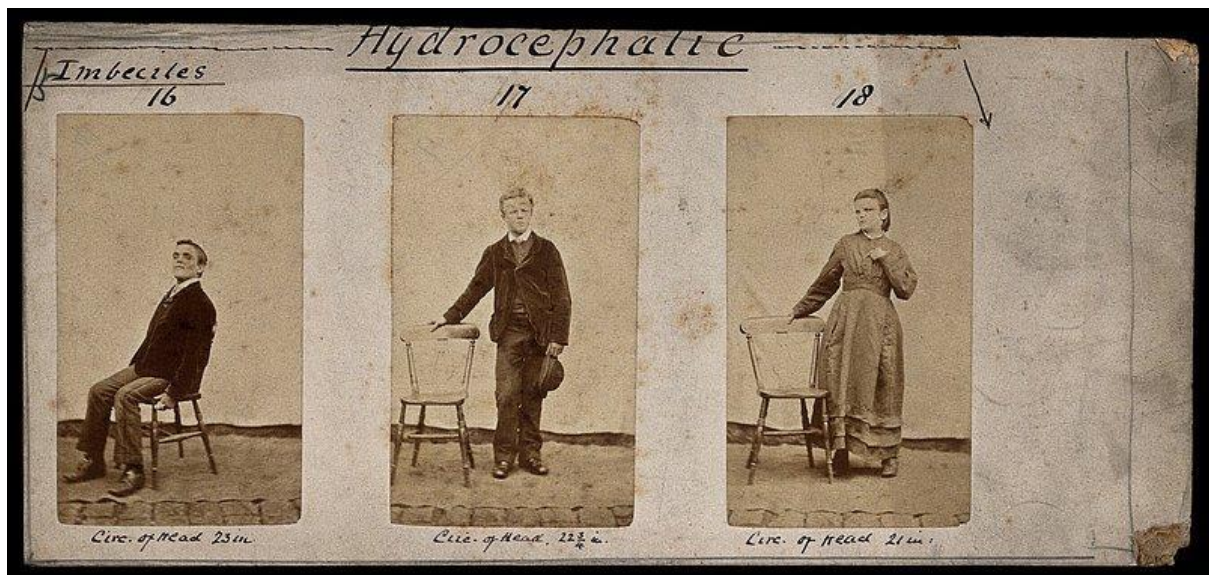
Many Downs babies born do have low muscle tone and are able to meet milestones with physiotherapy and early intervention. With more social awareness, and less discrimination society could see that having Down's Syndrome does not mean your child will have a limited and unfulfilling life.

At Parkside we are aware of this social prejudice and work every day to disprove this.

HISTORY

History shows that this negative discrimination and Ableism could actually be something that has developed for Down Syndrome people in recent decades.

Remains of people with Down Syndrome have been found in ancient tombs and cemeteries dating back 5500 years. Ancient burial routines of people with DS seem no different to any other people in cemeteries, researchers have suggested that this indicates people with DS were treated equally in those times.



It was not until 1956 that it was discovered not only was DS a physical difference but that they also shared an additional copy of the chromosome 21.

IN 1965 the designation of Down Syndrome or Trisomy 21 was confirmed by WHO (World Health Organisations)