



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
educate. inspire. believe.

Hey Families! This year our Operation Kid-to-Kid project has a unique opportunity to impact our local community. Your donations will help open GiGi's Playhouse in Simi Valley! GiGi's Playhouse is a Down syndrome achievement center dedicated to providing free programs that are educational, therapy-based, and friendship building for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community. Some of our friends here at Rocky Peak have Down syndrome! In case you have never heard of Down syndrome, here is a quick explanation of what it is. God designed people to be made up of billions of cells which are too small to see without a microscope. Inside most of those cells are chromosomes. Chromosomes contain hundreds or thousands of genes. Not the kind of jeans that you wear, a different type of gene spelled G-E-N-E-S. They are inside each cell in your body. Genes are like a map of who you are. They determine things like what color your hair is, how tall you will be when you grow up and whether or not you can wiggle your nose. God decided all of those things before you were even born.

You can think of chromosomes as beautiful marbles. Before you were born, you got 23 marbles from your mother and 23 marbles from your father. That makes a total of 46 marbles. Those marbles guide the way that your body grows and develops. No two marbles are exactly alike, that is why everyone looks, acts, grows and develops differently.

Down syndrome is a genetic condition that is caused by having an extra marble. Nobody knows where this marble comes from or why it appears. Instead of having 46 marbles like most people, people with Down syndrome have 47 marbles. That extra marble is the reason that people with Down syndrome look and talk a little differently, sometimes take longer to learn new things, have some complicated medical problems and might act a little differently than you do.

That extra marble gives people with Down syndrome some extra special things too. People with Down syndrome are very sensitive to how people feel and love people with their whole heart. They are determined and independent and can do just about anything they put their minds to. Just like there are special gifts that God gave you, people with Down syndrome were also created for a purpose with unique gifts and talents.

Down syndrome was named after a scientist named Langston Down. It is quite a coincidence that a scientist with a name discovered Down syndrome because there is actually nothing DOWN about it!

GiGi's Playhouse will provide a safe place for individuals with Down syndrome to grow, build confidence, unleash joy, and support continuous improvement. It was created to change the way the world views people with Down syndrome and improve the way that they are treated. God teaches us to love each other and treat each other with kindness. You can help bring GiGi's Playhouse to Simi Valley and share what you learned about Down syndrome with your friends and neighbors. The next time that you see a friend at church that has Down syndrome, you can wave, smile and make them feel welcome.

3 Ways To Give

1. In-Person VBS Donation

Every morning at VBS and on Thursday at our Family Fun Night you can turn in your change and dollars for Rocky Peak's Gigi's Playhouse Fund. We're so excited to be part of the process to bring GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Center to Simi Valley, CA! We hope you'll join us in celebrating and supporting us to make GiGi's Playhouse Simi Valley a reality!

2. Online Donation

Sign up to help kids in your community.

1. Visit gigisplayhouse.org/simivalley
2. Select the donate icon and choose a level, these are tax-deductible.

3. Volunteering

If you are interested in donating your time and talent, let us know! Visit gigisplayhouse.org/simivalley/volunteer