What is Down Syndrome?” *NDSS*, [http://www.ndss.org/about-down-syndrome/](http://www.ndss.org/about-down-syndrome/down-syndrome/)

[down-syndrome/](http://www.ndss.org/about-down-syndrome/down-syndrome/). Accessed 8 December 2017.

**Summary:** The article begins by explaining that Down Syndrome is when an individual has an extra copy of chromosome 21. Then, it explains the three types of Down Syndrome. First, Trisomy 21 (nondisjunction) is the most common form of Down Syndrome, and it causes the affected individual to have three copies of chromosome 21 rather than the usual two copies. Secondly, Mosaicism causes individuals to have two types of cells, some containing forty-seven chromosomes rather than the usual forty-six. In the the cells with forty-seven chromosomes, there is an extra copy of chromosome 21. The source says that the cause of Down Syndrome is unknown, but it has been linked to the age of the mother at birth. However, Down Syndrome can stem from the mother or the father. Down Syndrome is diagnosed through prenatal tests at birth, and although doctors cannot know for certain whether or not the child will be affected at this stage, parents can see the chances of their child being affected.  At birth, physical characteristics such as low muscle tone, a deep crease across the palm of the hand, a slightly flattened facial profile, and an upward slant to the eyes can reveal that a baby has Down Syndrome. In our society, a woman at age thirty-five has a 1 in 350 chance of having a child with Down Syndrome. A woman at age forty has a 1 in 100 chance. People with Down Syndrome are becoming more and more integrated into society as time passes on.

**Assessment:**

This article by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) discusses what Down Syndrome is, the various types of Down Syndrome, its causes, how it’s diagnosed, and its frequency in our society. This is a reliable source because it comes from the National Down Syndrome Society, which is a reputable non-profit that caters to people with Down Syndrome and their families.

**Reflection:**

This source helps us to better understand the people we are working with on our service project who have Down Syndrome. Understanding Down Syndrome enables us to see what the employees are going through and establish stronger relationships with them.