



# Our Journey with Up Syndrome

*“Redefining Life with a Child with Down Syndrome”*

*By Lisa Edwards, Guest Columnist  
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**O**n March 19, 2004 after many hours of labor.... it finally paid off. I was handed the most beautiful baby boy whom I promptly named Elijah James, our eighth miracle.

After my first child was born in 1988, my doctors told me not to have any more children.

My pregnancy with Elijah was high risk from the beginning. I was given weekly ultrasounds, doctor’s visits, shots everyday and a prescription for constant lounging.

I was startled when they wheeled me from my room to see Elijah. To see him in a glass bubble with tubes connected was not what I expected. To my surprise my beautiful baby boy had developed complications.

Moments after Elijah’s birth, the doctor began to inform me of the type of conditions they were projecting that my son might have. However, as the doctor spoke, the words whirled around my mind in confusion.

But, I clung to the scripture Psalm 139:14, “I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way, what you have done is wonderful. I know this very well.”



Four days later we found out that the complications had resulted from Down syndrome. All I had ever known of Down syndrome was 'Corky' on television. However, in that moment, we joined the families of the 1,950 babies born with Down syndrome in 2004.

One child in 600 is born with Down syndrome. That seems like a distant number. However, it is so very real when it is happening to you.

The thought of not having Elijah was never considered. Even though 9 out of 10 children diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted.

When he was born, he became a large part of our family's heart and soul. Being Elijah's mother has got to be the most rewarding jobs God has blessed me with. Sure he may be a little bit different... But, in reality who is not?

I admit it has been a roller coaster ride ever since his birth. For the first six weeks of his life, he stayed at a children's hospital. But, the challenges of that upward climb cannot compare to the euphoria he brings to everyday life.

(I often wish that God would grant me one wish.....I wish my children would stay younger longer so I could enjoy them more. They grow up so very fast.)

I am blessed indeed every morning with a smiling face murmuring "Mama". His unconditional love has lifted me up and I look forward to life's journey with Up syndrome not Down syndrome.

*Lisa Edwards is a wife and mother of eight from Conyers, GA. She has a desire to be a resource to any family who just found out that their child has Down syndrome or currently has Down syndrome. She can be reached by email at [eightkidsjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:eightkidsjoy@yahoo.com).*



**Seven of the Edward's Eight Children**