

CSR: Fidson Healthcare Plc donates N1 million to Down syndrome sufferers

In what can be described as a conscious effort to living out its motto, Fidson Healthcare Plc yesterday extended her life-valuing gesture to people suffering from Down syndrome in Nigeria as it donates N1 million as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to the society.

Speaking at the donation ceremony, Oladimeji Oduyebo, Corporate Services Manager said that since Down syndrome is one genetic disorder which results in children developing learning disability, such individuals needed some form of assistance to enable them develop like normal children in the society.

Oduyebo revealed that children with Down syndrome develop visual and hearing impairment and so, they need aid to enable them hear and/or see clearly which will make them develop normally.

In his words “the company donated N1 million to people suffering from Down syndrome to support the care that they are placed on to become better people in the society. No doubt, early intervention can help many people with Down syndrome live productive lives well into adulthood.

“Don’t forget that children with Down syndrome can often benefit from speech therapy, occupational therapy, and exercises for gross and fine motor skills. They might also be helped by special education and attention at school. Many children can integrate well into regular classes at school.”

Lending her view, Rose Mordi, National President, Down syndrome foundation disclosed that a child with Down syndrome is often slow to turn over, sit, stand, and respond as this may be related to the child's poor muscle tone.

Mordi revealed that development of speech and language abilities may take longer than expected and may not occur as fully as parents would like. However, children with Down syndrome do develop the communication skills they need.

According to the National President, “Parents of other children with Down syndrome are often valuable sources of information and support. Parents should keep in mind that children with Down syndrome have a wide range of abilities and talents, and each child develops at his or her own particular pace.

It may take children with Down syndrome longer than other children to reach developmental milestones, but many of these milestones will eventually be met. Parents should make a concerted effort not to compare the developmental progress of a child with Down syndrome to the progress of other siblings or even to other children with Down syndrome.”

Responding to the donation,.....

Though people suffering from Down syndrome may have one form of disability or the other, early intervention through specialized programs like special education, speech therapy, and related resources should be made available by health care professionals to the child with Down syndrome.