First_Connections
A Complimentary Welcome Basket Program

A joyful, informative and useful collection of goodies for both new born babies and parents to welcome them into the world of Down Syndrome!

Learn More --->
First_Connections –
a complimentary welcome basket program by 21_Connect

Some compare the journey into the world of Down Syndrome like planning a family vacation to Italy. You work out all the details, pack your bags, and get on a plane... except, you don’t land in Italy. You land in Holland. It’s not quite what you expected or planned, but you will grow to see the beauty of this place. Tulips, windmills, and Rembrandt’s in all their glory.

Our basket program is designed to welcome families who recently gave birth to a child with Down Syndrome into the community in a loving, caring, and fully inclusive way. Too often, new parents can be presented with overwhelming medical information and scary what-if scenarios. And while that information is not bad, it can often be presented in a way that creates doubt, fear, and isolation.

We believe having a child with Down Syndrome is a GIFT. As cliché as that may sound, if we could go back in time to when our children with DS were born, we would happily say “Congratulations! And welcome to Holland.” So each basket is tailored to spread a little joy and help create that ‘first connection’.

Each basket is gender specific with gifts for both child and parents. Things like:
- Premium Swaddle Blankets and Onesies
- Fun Story Books and Toys
- Wubanub’s
- Educational or information books for Parents
- And even a few surprises like an Amazon Echo Dot, or a Spa Package for Mom!

To request a basket:

Contact 21_Connect by phone/text at 716.427.3575 or email connect@21connect.org and we will have a basket delivered promptly.

Baskets can be delivered at local WNY hospitals or at the parent’s home.

If you know someone recently (within 1 year) who has had a child with Down Syndrome and think they would enjoy a First_Connections basket we would be honored with your referral.

Privacy: We acknowledge and respect everyone’s journey is unique. If parents would like to meet with us, we will gladly welcome them to the community in person. If they aren’t ready for that just yet, we can leave the basket anonymously with the nurse manager on duty or at their home.