

Portrait of Jan

Jan is 41 years old. She has two daughters, her older daughter is 14 years old, her name is Maya and she has Down syndrome. Jan's younger daughter, Suzanne, is 10 years old and does not have special needs. Maya was diagnosed at birth. Since Maya was diagnosed at birth, Jan was able to consult her various doctors and specialists early on. Jan has been engaged in researching her daughter's disabilities, including moderate intellectual disability, attention issues, difficulty using a pencil or pen, and speech articulation issues. Maya also has a heart murmur and she worries about how she is doing in physical education.

Jan is a member of a support group in her area and several online communities on special education and Down syndrome. She is an advocate online for children with special needs.

Jan has a high school education and some college, she is not working currently so that she can spend time taking care of Maya who misses school frequently. Her wish is to someday continue her education and work towards a Master in Education so that she can work with/teach children with severe disabilities.

Recently, Jan heard that there are new programs for kids with Down syndrome to go to college. She would like Maya to go to college, but because they have limited income and Maya still doesn't know how to read, she doesn't know if this is realistic. She worries about high school and what Maya will do after high school, but has no idea where to start.

The household has one computer on dial up and the whole family needs to use it. Because of this, Jan is not able to spend a lot of time online. She conducts most of her research online.