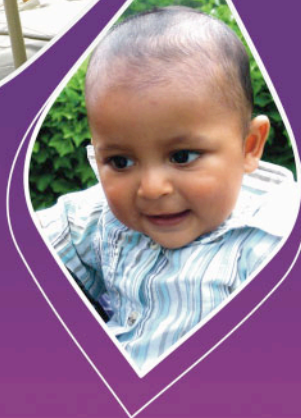




# RAISING AWARENESS OF CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE



## Were you aware that.....

- One child in every 125 liveborn babies has a congenital heart defect
- Over 5000 children are born in the UK each year with congenital heart disease
- Heart defects represent the most common type of birth defect
- Congenital heart disease is responsible for 50% of infant deaths due to malformations
- Some heart defects are detected during pregnancy through routine anomaly scanning, but in the UK the majority of major congenital heart defects are not detected prior to birth. It is vital to improve these standards by both raising awareness and improving education and training within general ante-natal scanning units
- Many children with congenital heart defects also have other conditions such as Down Syndrome and Di George Syndrome. Other malformations may co-exist and some children have associated learning difficulties and developmental delay
- Research has shown that about 25% of children born with congenital heart disease have an identifiable genetic abnormality

- In many cases, the underlying cause of the cardiac lesion is unknown. Occasionally, maternal drug therapy may be implicated as well as maternal alcohol and drug abuse

Thanks to the huge advances made in the care and treatment of congenital heart disease, most cardiac defects are now treatable by surgery or catheter intervention. However, for severe cardiac defects treatment may be palliative rather than truly curative. 90% of heart-children now live to see their 20th birthday - 20 years ago that would not have been the case.

For further information, please visit  
[www.echo-evelina.org.uk](http://www.echo-evelina.org.uk)



**Evelina Children's  
Heart Organisation**

Support for families of heart-children treated at The Evelina Children's Hospital

[www.echo-evelina.org.uk](http://www.echo-evelina.org.uk)

Email: [admin@echo-evelina.org.uk](mailto:admin@echo-evelina.org.uk)

ECHO P.O. BOX 5015, BRIGHTON BN50 9JR

Registered Charity No. 287475