

**Transcript of edited interview with Catherine (Down's syndrome - age 26)**

**Interviewer:** So, Catherine, tell me how old you are?

**Catherine:** 26.

**Interviewer:** I know you go to work, can you tell me about where you go to work and what you do when you get there?

**Catherine:** I work in the shop, 'Gap'. Friday mornings I get up really early and get the bus from Houghton, then I get a seat to Sunderland and it's quite a walk to Gap.

**Interviewer:** So you go on your own?

**Catherine:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** And what do you like doing when you get to work?

**Catherine:** Well, we're not really open when I'm there, because they don't open until half past nine. I'm supposed to start at half past nine. So I have got to ring the bell and I'm quite small so I've got to like reach up so I can get let in. They don't let anybody in until they open.

**Interviewer:** And then when you are open what is your job?

**Catherine:** I just get asked where I'm needed and I just do what needs to be done.

**Interviewer:** Do you sort the clothes out?

**Catherine:** Sometimes. I do customer service. Just checking up on people, if they're okay, if they need any help. If they say 'I'm fine', then I just say 'okay'. If they nod, they just ask questions.

**Interviewer:** So you went to College to learn about things like this?

**Catherine:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** What were the courses you did? Tell me one of them.

**Catherine:** Mainly retail. Customer Care.

**Interviewer:** What else do you like doing? Do you watch the television much?

**Catherine:** I mainly watch Eastenders.

**Interviewer:** What about music, do you like music?

**Catherine:** Ah yes. I like 'Top of the Pops' every Friday night. So I get rid of Dad's news and watch Number One, and I've got loads of CDs.

**Interviewer:** And who's your favourite?

**Catherine:** I love Westlife, I've been to see Westlife at the Telewest Arena.

**Interviewer:** And do you go with your friends?

**Catherine:** With friends of my Dad.

**Interviewer:** Do you have to do jobs at home?

**Catherine:** I get roped into it.

**Interviewer:** What's your worst job?

**Catherine:** Washing up.

**Interviewer:** I used to hate that too. And what's your best job?

**Catherine:** Cooking, preparing meals. I love travelling.

**Interviewer:** So you're good at travelling on your own are you?

**Catherine:** Ah yes. I live away sometimes.

**Interviewer:** What do you think you're best at?

**Catherine:** Trying to be independent. But eventually I want my own place. Me and my mum have been looking at bungalow type places, just started to. We're working towards it.

**Interviewer:** Who do you think you would live with?

**Catherine:** Might just be on my own.

**Interviewer:** So have you got good friends?

**Catherine:** Yes, I've got loads.

**Interviewer:** What did you like doing when you were little? Can you remember? Did you go on holidays?.

**Catherine:** I love going on holiday.

**Interviewer:** Can you remember one?

**Catherine:** Jersey. That was when I was really terrified of flying. I was watching the plane from the airport, clutching my dad. I nearly cut his blood circulation.

**Interviewer:** What was school like? Did you like it?

**Catherine:** Most of them.

**Interviewer:** What did you not like about it?

**Catherine:** I didn't like getting bullied or harassed or teased.

**Interviewer:** What did you get teased about?

**Catherine:** Anything. Like how I am. For one thing I've got that they haven't got. This Downs Syndrome. That's why they did it.

**Interviewer:** Did it upset you?

**Catherine:** Yes. I tried to ring my dad.

**Interviewer:** Did your dad always help you?

**Catherine:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** So when you left school you went to college?

**Catherine:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** And did you find that difficult or easy?

**Catherine:** It was a change. It was like different from school. Because at school you could do what you liked but at college you couldn't do what you like. Well you can but I was always being told I'm late.

**Interviewer:** So could you manage to do all the reading and writing?

**Catherine:** Most of it, yes. Just I couldn't pronounce the words with s'. That's what I find difficult.

**Interviewer:** What do you think is the hardest thing about having Downs?

**Catherine:** Understanding it.

**Interviewer:** Do you think you do understand it?

**Catherine:** I keep asking my dad.

**Interviewer:** And what does he say?

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**Catherine:** It's part of you.

**Interviewer:** And what do you think is the best think about being Downs?

**Catherine:** You can do what you like.

**Interviewer:** So have you got or would you like to have a boyfriend?

**Catherine:** I had some. Last time was Paul. He's got the same as me, Downs Syndrome. But I'd given up on him now.

**Interviewer:** Why?

**Catherine:** I'm just fed up with him for getting other girlfriends.

**Interviewer:** Difficult isn't it. I think it's difficult for everybody.

**Catherine:** But they're still like friends still.

**Interviewer:** That's good. Well it sounds as if you have a good time to me. Your dad was telling me about when you go to Live Theatre. Tell me about that, who do you go with and what you do when you get there.

**Catherine:** Well it's a like disco type place. They have a bar and there's all this dancing. I go with a few friends and my cousin. I've got loads of friends who go there. Not just who I go with. That's where I get my white wine.

**Interviewer:** You like that don't you?

**Catherine:** Yes.

**Interviewer:** Is there anything else interesting that you do that I haven't asked you about? Writing?

**Catherine:** I do a lot of writing. Non-stop. I forget about anyone else.

**Interviewer:** What do you write about?

**Catherine:** Anything. I just think of something and do it.

**Interviewer:** Have you got something you could read to me?

**Catherine:** Yes, I've got it upstairs.

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