

SMILE

WITH YOUR HEART!

Have you heard of Moebius Syndrome (pronounced “mow-bee-us”)? Most people haven’t. That’s because it is a rare condition that causes facial paralysis in babies before they are born. That means they cannot smile, or frown, or wink, or whistle.

Do you notice how many people smile when they say “hello” or how often you smile at other people to let them know you are happy, friendly, or to make them feel good? Imagine if you could not smile at a kid you wanted to be friends with, or to show your parents that they made you happy.

Have you ever tried to eat, swallow, or talk without moving your lips? Probably not, and if you did, you’d realize it is very difficult. People with Moebius Syndrome are not able to clearly make “b”, “p” or “m” sounds. They may also have to eat with their mouth open – not because they want to.

These are just a few challenges caused by Moebius Syndrome.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

People with Moebius Syndrome know they look different and you might not be able to read their expression. So, when you meet someone who looks different and maybe acts in a way that you don’t expect, don’t stare or avoid them. You can say “hi” and smile – even if they can’t smile back, they’ll be smiling with their heart!



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