



SMILE WITH YOUR HEART

Have you ever heard of Moebius Syndrome? Most people haven't! That's because it is a rare condition that causes facial paralysis in babies. That means in some cases they can't smile, wink, frown, 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 that you are happy, friendly, or to make them feel good? Imagine if you couldn't 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 make "b", "p", or "m" sounds. They may also have to eat with their mouths open – not because they want to.

These are just a few challenges faced by people with 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 you don't expect, don't stare or avoid them. You can say "hi" and smile – even if they can't smile back, they will be smiling with their heart.