



How to Talk to a Minor About Research

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Notice to adults enrolling on behalf of a child under the age of

maturity: Please read the following information regarding the research if you would like your child to take part in the study. Your child must be older than 3 months in order to take part in the study. (Some sub-studies have different age restrictions. If you are interested in having your child take part in a specific sub-study, check the study information to see what the age requirements are.)

All survey questions on the 23andMe website address the research participant. We ask you to answer these surveys with or on behalf of your child, depending on their age, maturity, and understanding.

In addition, for studies like 23andMe's, when children or minors are involved in research, the regulations require the assent of the child or minor and the permission of a parent or legal guardian, in place of the consent of the subjects.

Assent is a child's affirmative agreement to participate in research. Mere failure to object should not be construed as assent.

On this page, you will be asked to read the informed consent document and provide permission for your child to participate in this research. Your child must also be informed about the research and decide if they wish to participate. If a child expresses discomfort with a survey topic, question, or the study in general, they may choose to stop participating.

If your child is mature enough to understand the informed consent document, please have the child read it and discuss any concerns with you.

If your child cannot read and understand the informed consent document, here are some suggested ways to discuss this research, including the potential risks and benefits, with your child:



For Ages 9-12:

How to Talk to a Minor About Research

What is DNA?

- DNA is like a blueprint, or a set of instructions, for your body. You have DNA in almost every one of your cells.
- Your DNA tells your body what color eyes you should have or if your hair should be curly or straight. DNA could also affect things like if you're better at running really fast or better at running really far.
- Your DNA also tells your body how to work. Certain kinds of DNA could make a person have a health problem or get a disease.
- Your DNA is very unique. Nobody else has DNA exactly like yours.
- You even have DNA in your spit! Scientists at 23andMe can look very, very closely at your spit to take a picture of your DNA. All you have to do is spit in a special tube and mail it to our lab.

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Why does 23andMe want my DNA?

Our scientists are trying to learn how DNA affects people's health. Some people get sick with a disease. Some don't. We want to learn why.

Maybe a person's DNA affects whether or not they get a disease, or if a medicine will help them. We also want to know how DNA affects other things, like hair color or if you are left- or right-handed. If you want to, you can mail us your spit so we can look at your DNA. Then your parents can tell us about you on our website.

What will 23andMe do with my DNA?

Our scientists will compare your DNA to other people's DNA. Some of those other people have something in common with you. Some of them don't. This might help us learn a lot of things. For example, we could learn that certain DNA instructions make it more likely that a person will be tall or more likely to get colds.



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Is sharing my DNA with 23andMe safe?

Your DNA is very special, just like you. Remember that your DNA is like an instruction book for your body? If someone looked at your DNA, they might learn things about you that you don't want to tell them.

We are very careful with your DNA and we will do our best to keep it safe. The computers where we keep your DNA have strong protections to keep other people from breaking in and looking at your DNA.

How does helping with this DNA study help me?

Since DNA tells your body what to do, we want to see if sick people and healthy people have different DNA. If sick people have different DNA, that could help doctors. Doctors might be able to make a better medicine for sick people. Maybe doctors could warn people before they got sick. It could take a long time, but if we learn something important in the study, that could help you. Doctors might be able to keep you from getting sick, or help you get better faster.

Who decides if I join this study?

You and your parents do. If you want to and your parents say it's okay, then you can be in our study.

If you don't want to be in our study, that's fine! Just make sure to tell your parents so.

Even if you decide to join this study today, you can change your mind later and quit. If you join, we will contact you when you are older so you can decide for yourself if you would like to keep being in the study.



For Ages 13 and Older:

What is DNA?

- DNA is like a blueprint, or a set of instructions, for your body. There are copies of your DNA in almost every one of your cells.
- Your DNA affects things like what eye color you have or whether you have curly or straight hair. It might determine if you're better at running very fast or better at running really far.
- Your DNA can also tell the organs inside your body how to work, and DNA might affect who gets a certain health problem or disease.
- Your DNA is very unique, and nobody else has DNA exactly like yours.
- Did you know that you even have DNA in your saliva, or spit? Scientists at 23andMe can look very, very closely at your spit to take a picture of your DNA. All you have to do is spit in a special tube and mail it to our lab.

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Why does 23andMe want my DNA?

The scientists at 23andMe are trying to learn more about how DNA affects health and diseases in humans. We know that some people get a certain illness and other people don't, but we don't know why.

23andMe scientists want to find out if a person's DNA might affect whether or not they get a certain disease, or if a certain medication or treatment will work for them. 23andMe scientists also want to find out how a person's DNA affects other things, like height, hair color, or if you are left- or right-handed. If you want to, you can help by mailing us a sample of your spit so we can look at your DNA. Then your parent or guardian will answer questions on our website about you.

What will 23andMe do with my DNA?

23andMe scientists will compare your DNA to other people's DNA. Some of those other people have something in common with you and some of them don't. This might help us learn a lot of things, such as whether DNA affects a person's chances of being taller or of getting a certain illness.



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Is sharing my DNA with 23andMe risky?

We know that your DNA is very special, just like you, and we will be very careful to protect it. Remember that your DNA is like a blueprint or instruction book for your body. If someone were to break into our computers and look at your DNA, they might be able to use it to learn things about you that you didn't know, or that you don't want to tell them.

23andMe scientists are very careful with your DNA and we do our best to keep our computers safe. We will put special protections in place to try to stop any other people from breaking into our computers and looking at your DNA without our permission.

How does helping with this DNA study help me?

Right now, scientists and doctors are trying to learn more and more about health and disease in humans. If we can learn more about this by looking at DNA, then the scientists and doctors might be able to create better medicines to help other people who have certain health problems.

If you help by answering questions about yourself on our website, then you may be able to help other people with health problems to get better medications or treatments.

Who gets to decide if I join this study?

You and your parents do. If you want to help with this study, and your parents say that's okay, then you can participate.

If you don't want to join the study, that's okay, too! Just be sure to tell your parents that you don't want to take part.

Even if you decide to join this study today, you can still change your mind at any time. You can choose not to take any of the surveys on the 23andMe website or even ask your parent to remove you from the study on the 23andMe website.

If you join the study now, we will contact you when you reach the age of maturity to encourage you to read the consent document and decide for yourself if you would like to continue to participate.