BABYSEO

Cell

The basic building block of living things. Each person has about 30 trillion cells that make up their body.

DNA

The genetic information within a cell. Each person has unique DNA inherited from their parents.



Genes

Genes are made of DNA. Genes determine features like eye color and hair color, and give instructions to help your body function.



Gene change

A difference in the spelling of your DNA. All people have differences in their unique DNA. Most are not harmful and do not affect you. Some changes can cause certain health risks.



The genome

The entire set of genetic instructions found in a cell. In humans, the genome consists of 3 billion letters of DNA.

Genome sequencing

A laboratory test that can find most of the genetic changes in your DNA.

Dominant

A person has 2 copies of each gene, 1 from each parent. A "dominant" gene means that only one broken copy can cause health risks.



Recessive

A person has 2 copies of each gene, 1 from each parent. A "recessive" gene means that both copies need to be broken to cause health risks.



Risk

The chance that a person will develop a certain health problem. Genes and environment both affect risk.



Newborn screening

Testing for newborn babies to find treatable health problems. Newborn screening uses a blood sample from the baby's foot.



Family history

A record of who is part of a person's family, and their health. This information can help understand and treat health risks,



Research study

A project that you and your family can choose to be part of. Scientists and community members help plan this project. It is designed to learn how to make medical care better.

