Inform Network Support

Unique

Understanding Chromosome & Gene Disorders

Rare Chromosome Disorder Support Group
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Join Unique for family links, information and support.

Unique is a charity without government funding, existing entirely on donations and grants. If you can, please make a donation via our website at http://www.rarechromo.org/donate Please help us to help you!

Families should consult a medically qualified clinician in all matters relating to genetic diagnosis, management and health.

This guide was compiled by *Unique* using a guide written by Dr. Seonaid Beaumont, Psychiatry Doctor, Sheffield, UK. The original work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

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Rare Chromosome Disorder Support Group
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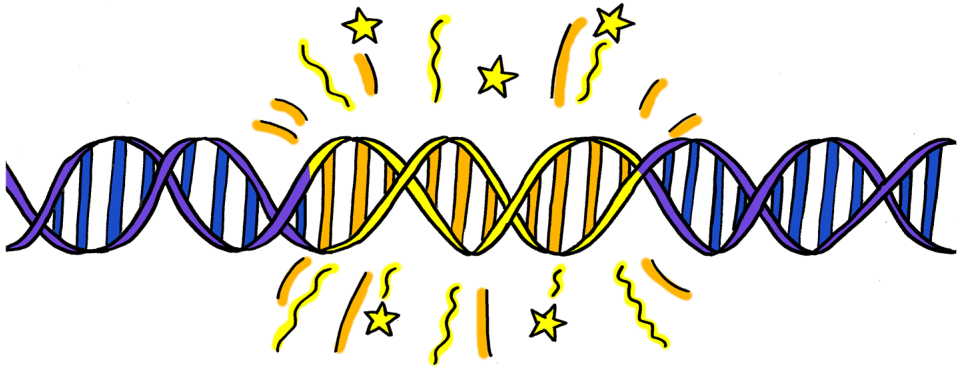
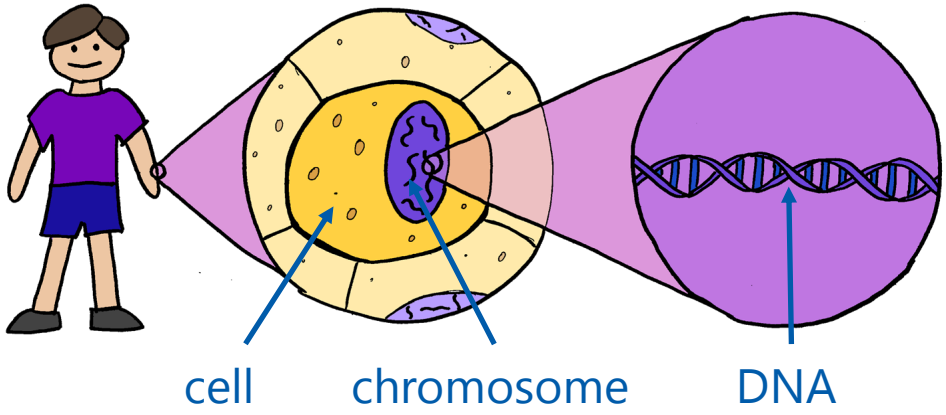


My Chromosome Story

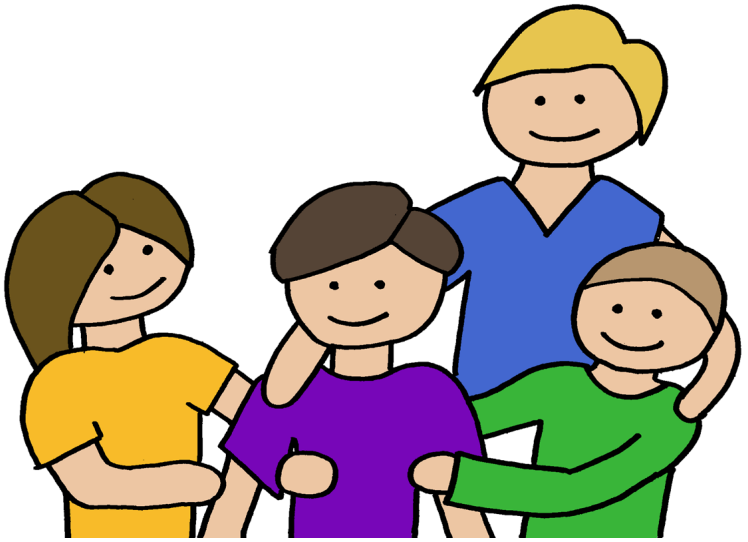
A picture book for chromosome 2q37 deletion syndrome



Your body is built from tiny building blocks called cells.

Almost all of your cells contain DNA, which is full of instructions on how to make you. The instructions are quite long and complicated and so they are split into different parts called chromosomes.

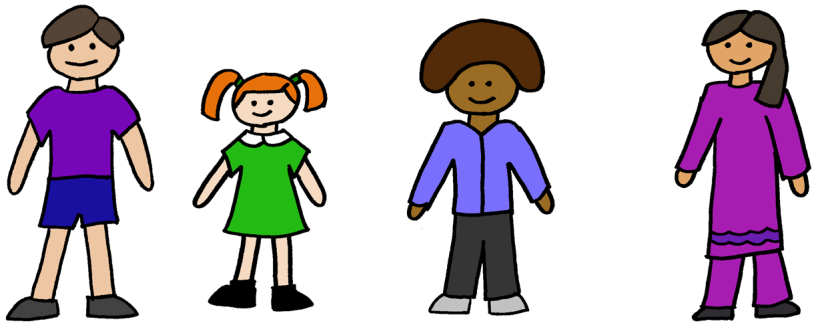
It might help to imagine the instructions are like a big book, and each chromosome is a different chapter.



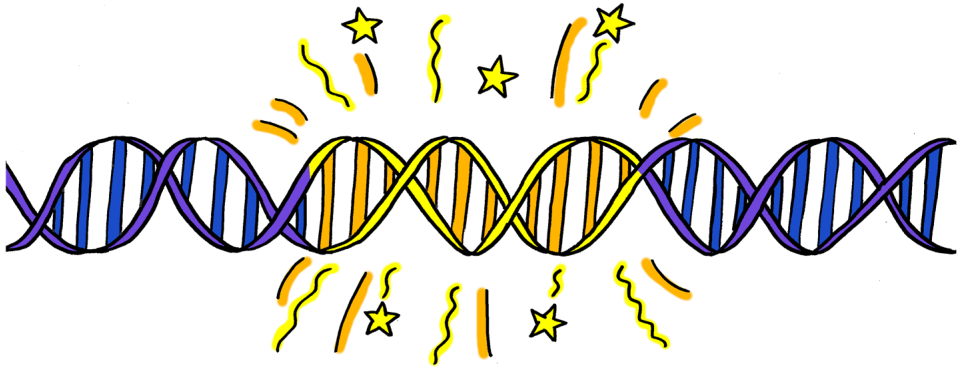
Remember that we are all different in different ways, and we all need help sometimes. It's good that you are exactly the way you are, because your family loves you very much just for being you.

Some children need a bit more help at school. Some children find it difficult to concentrate and some find it difficult to remember what they have learnt so might need to go over things a few times.

It is good to know about your missing bit of DNA, because now if you find some things difficult to do, your family and teachers will be able to help you even more than before.

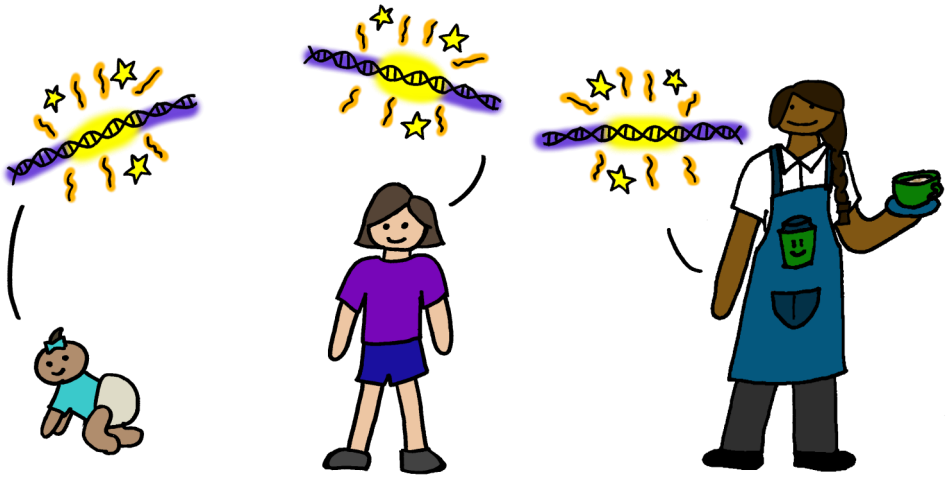


DNA helps to determine how tall you are, what colour hair you have, and lots and lots of other things about you. But DNA doesn't determine everything. Things that happen in your life make a difference as well, like if you live in a sunny place you might get darker skin, or if you do lots of art you might become more creative.



Everyone's DNA is different: some people have extra bits, some people have missing bits and some people have bits that have moved to a different place on a chromosome.

Inside your DNA there is a bit missing, one little piece of DNA has been lost so you have one less copy than most people. It is in the second chapter of your 'instruction book': chromosome two. Your missing piece of DNA is called a deletion.



Other people also have this missing bit of chromosome two like you. Just like people without this missing piece of DNA, you are all quite different from each other.

Some people with the missing bit of DNA find some things harder to do than other people.

Some children take a bit longer to learn how to walk and talk when they are little.