



Understanding Chromosome & Gene Disorders

### Rare Chromosome Disorder Support Group

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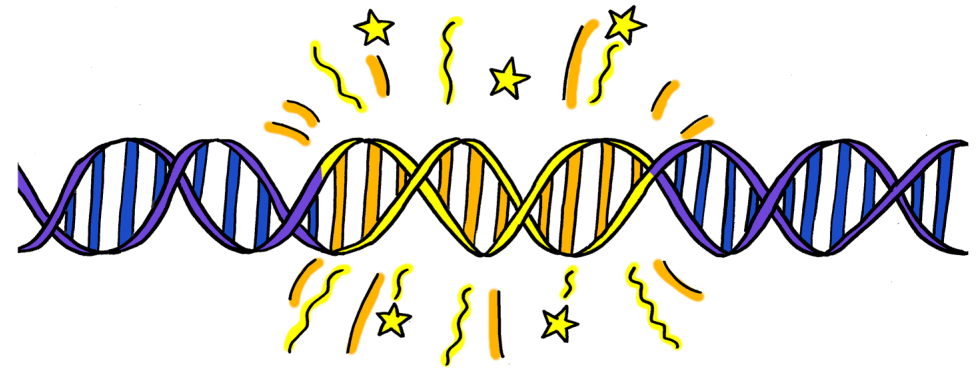
Join Unique for family links, information and support.

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.

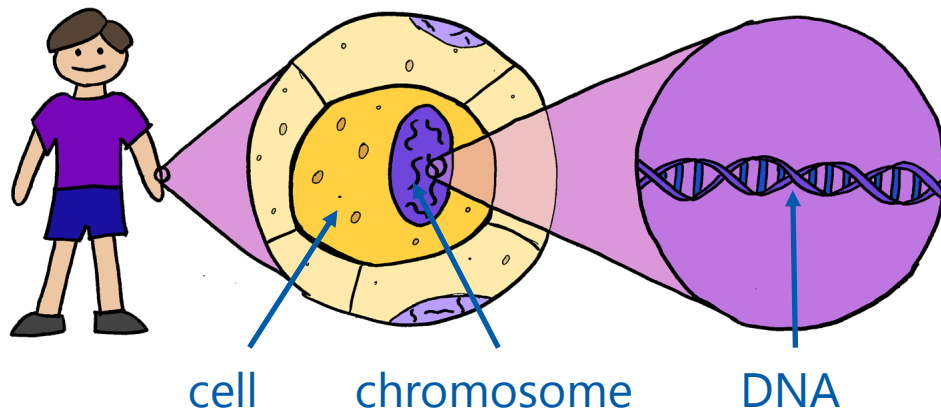
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2021 Version 1 (AP)



# My Chromosome Story

A picture book for chromosome  
16p11.2 microduplications

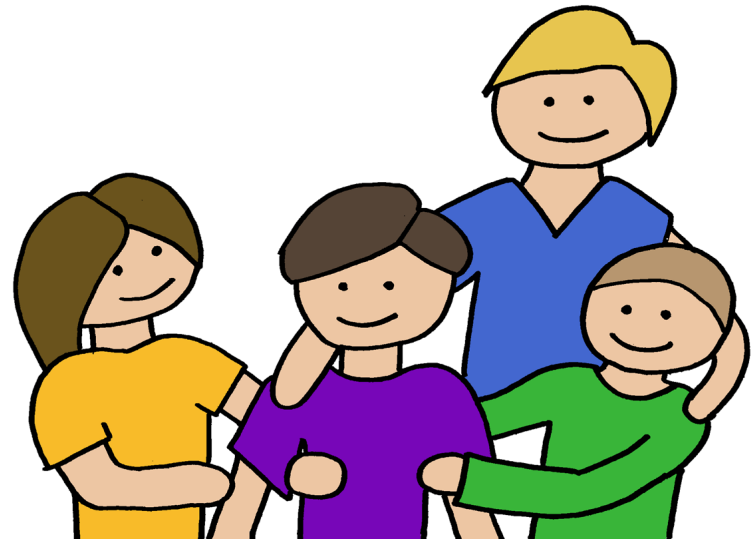


Your body is built from tiny building blocks called **cells**.

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.

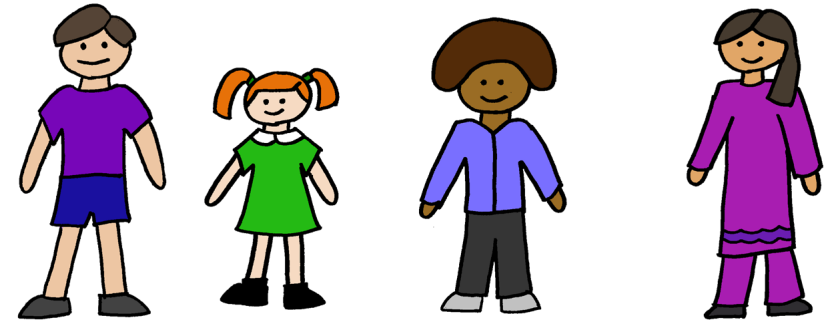


Remember that we are all different in different ways, and we all need help sometimes.

It's good that you are exactly the way you are, because your family loves you very much just for being you.



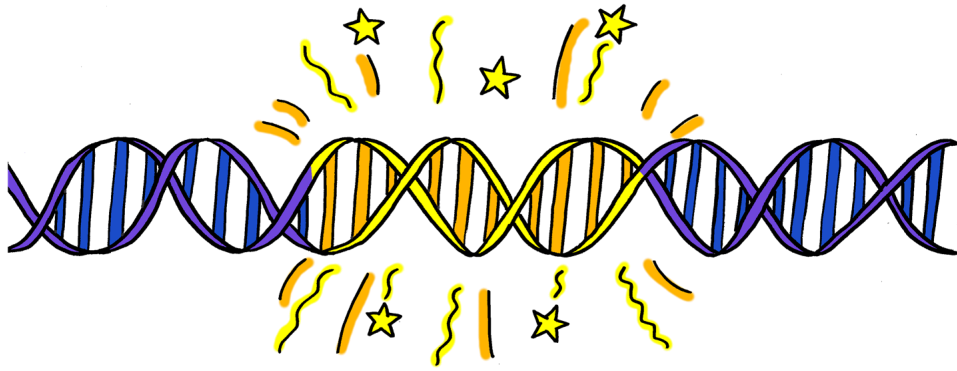
Some children with this extra bit of chromosome sixteen take a bit longer to learn how to walk and talk. Some children need a bit more help at school to understand things properly. Some children feel a bit fed up when it's difficult to talk or understand what grown-ups are saying. Some children find it harder to make friends. It is good to know about your extra 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.

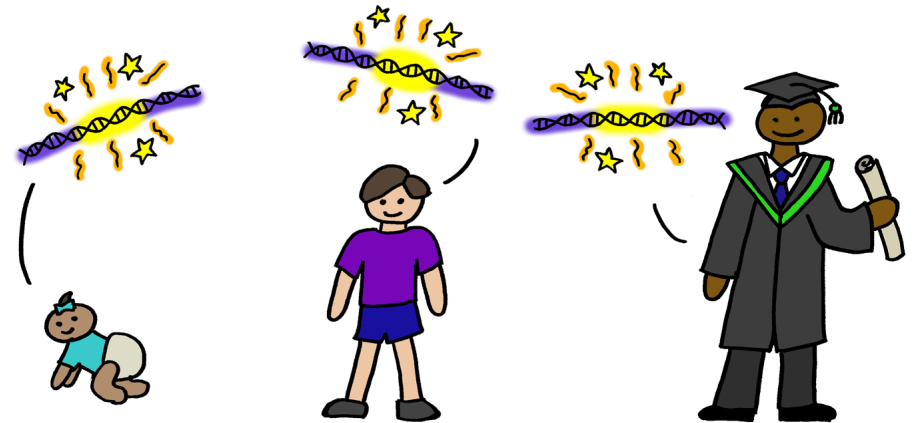
Things that happen in your life make a difference as well, like if you live in a sunny place you might get darker skin, or if you do lots of art you might become more creative.



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 an extra bit, where a piece of DNA is copied more times than in most people. It is in the 16th chapter of your 'instruction book': **chromosome 16**.

Your extra piece of DNA is called a **microduplication** (**duplication** means extra copy; **micro** means very small).



Other people also have the extra bit of chromosome sixteen like you. Just like people without this extra piece of DNA, you are all different from each other. Some people don't even know they have it.

Some people with the extra bit of DNA find some things harder to do than people without it, but this is different for each person.