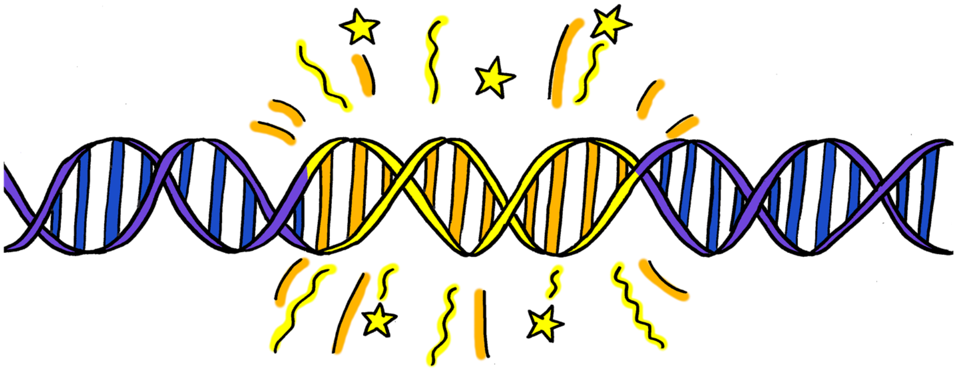
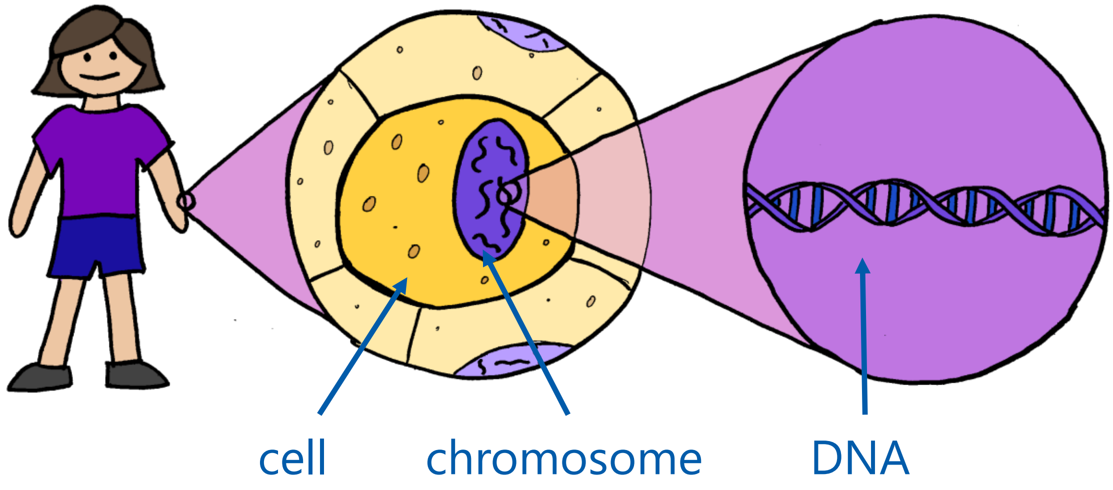


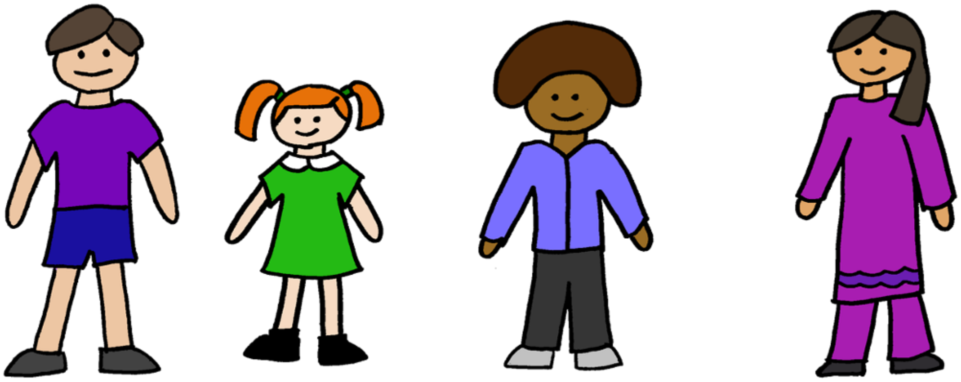
My Chromosome Story

A picture book for children with
Cat eye syndrome

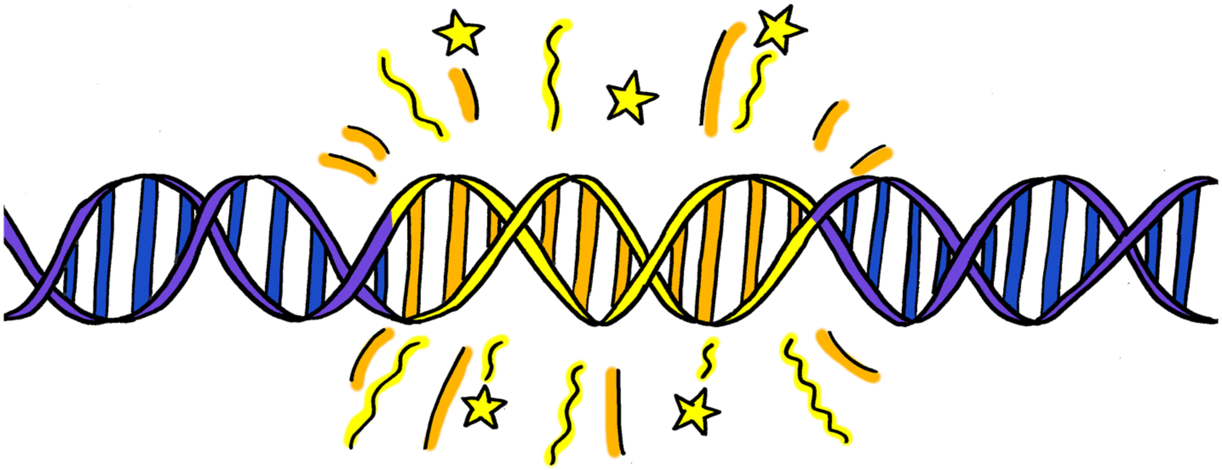


Your body is built from tiny building blocks called cells.

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.

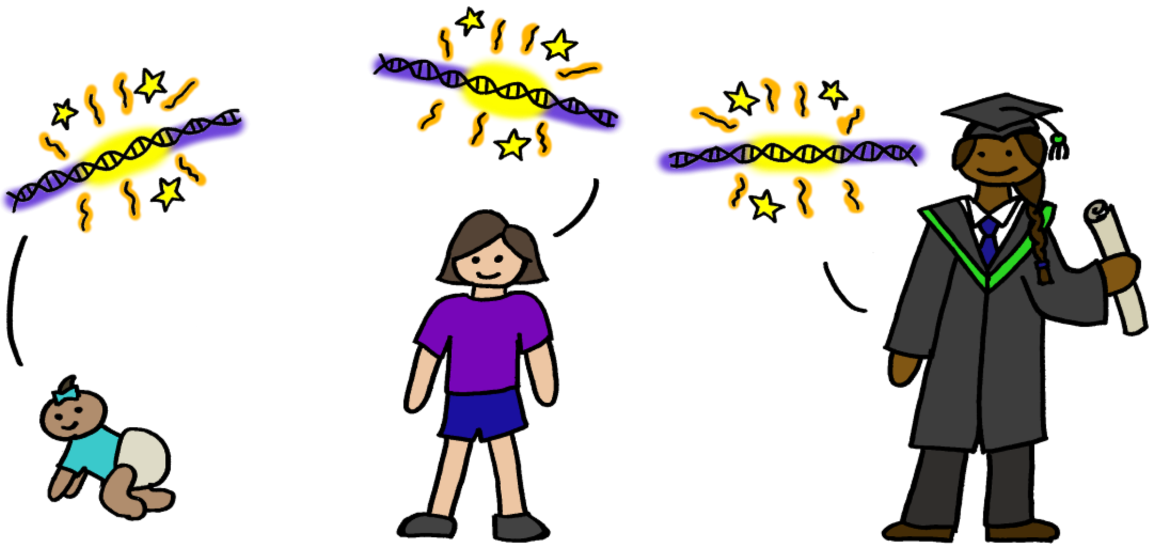


DNA helps to determine how tall you are, what colour hair you have, and lots and lots of other things about you. But DNA doesn't determine everything. Things that happen in your life make a difference as well, like if you live in a sunny place you might get darker skin, or if you do lots of art you might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



Everyone's DNA is different: some people have extra bits and some people have missing bits.

Inside your DNA there is an extra bit, where a piece of DNA is copied more times than in most people. It comes from the 22nd chapter of your 'instruction book': chromosome 22. Your extra piece of DNA is called a duplication (a duplication means an extra copy), you might have two extra copies.

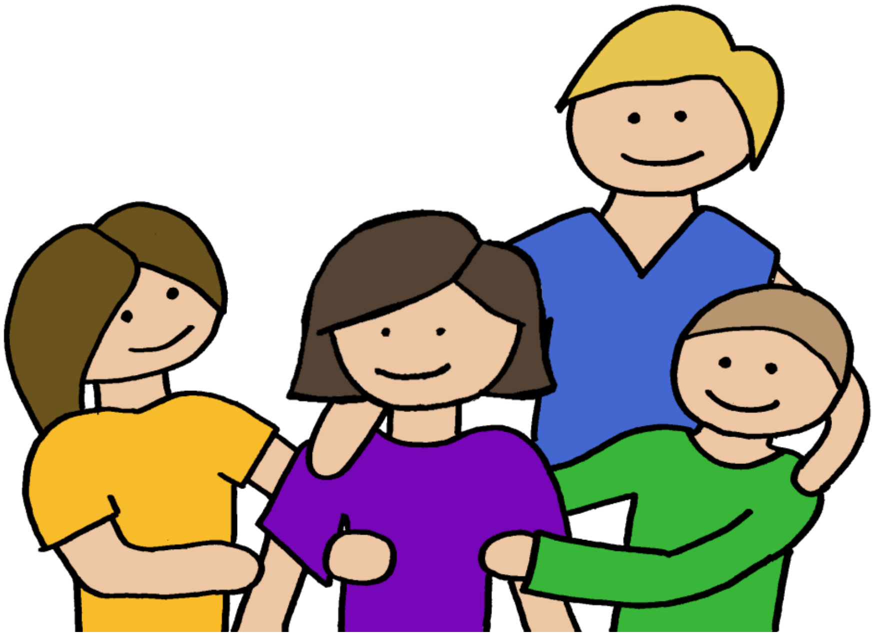


Other people also have extra bits of chromosome 22 like you. Just like people without extra pieces of DNA, you are all different from each other. Some people don't even know they have extra DNA.

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

Some children with extra bits of chromosome 22 have one or more changes to their body. One of these changes is in the ‘black centre’ of the eye. Instead of being round, it is shaped like the black part of a cat’s eye. But not everyone with cat eye syndrome has eyes that look like this.

Some children with Cat eye syndrome need a bit more help at school to understand things and some children feel a bit fed up when it’s difficult to understand what grown-ups are saying.



It is good to know about your extra 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.

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.

Inform Network Support

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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* (AP) using a guide written by Dr. Seonaid Beaumont, Sheffield, UK.

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