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HEADLINES

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## A registry wants to unite children of sperm donors

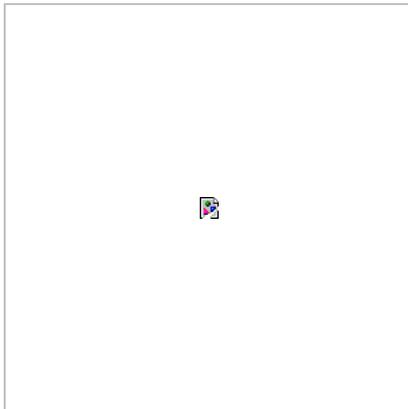
By: Ivanhoe Broadcast News

The focus of the [Donor Sibling Registry](#) is to assist individuals conceived as a result of sperm, egg or embryo donation who are seeking to make mutually desired contact with others with whom they share genetic ties. This may include: their own or their child's half-siblings, their own or their child's genetic father or mother or their own genetic offspring.

More than 2,600 half brothers and sisters have found siblings they didn't know they had, through the DSR.

The big question is when is the best time to tell my child that she is donor-conceived?

"It is never too early to begin telling your child the circumstances of their conception and birth. Small children love to hear the story of their beginnings and often ask to have it repeated. Don't worry about having the right language or perfect terminology. The way you tell this story should reflect the way you always speak in your house, with the same tone, length and level of seriousness. When the story of the donor-conception is told from the beginning of your child's life, the information becomes embedded in the relationship between your child and you. It is shared and it is a non-event, compared to the experience of disclosing the information for the first time at a later date," the Donor Sibling Registry says.



It may at first seem odd to be talking about issues of fertility to a young child, but remember that children only absorb the parts of the story that are meaningful to them at their current age. They simply disregard the information that is too advanced for them. When told about their donors, young children tend to ask very practical questions and usually show little emotional response. The story should grow with your child, increasing in detail as she is able to understand more. In response, the questions you are asked will also change as your child develops.

Children vary greatly in how important this information feels to them. Some children show little interest for years and then have a period of time where they are thinking about the donor or possible half siblings all the time. There is not one way that all children respond and even the same child reacts differently over time. So, even if your child does not bring the subject up, you should do so from time to time, reminding them that this will always be an open topic for discussion between you.