

also don't decide the timing of a lot of things.) We don't wait until they show interest or ask to meet their cousins, aunts, uncles or grandparents. Our children grow up knowing their close relatives, and then, when they are older, they choose who they wish to be in contact with and spend time with.

"Just imagine being 20 something and finding siblings on your own when DNA testing is even more wildly popular, or they find you. You then develop some kind of relationship. You find that many of these siblings had parents who encouraged these relationships, even from babyhood. You see the pictures; you hear the stories. Disney, camping, birthdays... A couple of them will be roomies in college, maid of honor in a sibling wedding, etc. To me, this would be crushing. I would feel so cheated. Whether or not I had great neighbor pals, awesome cousins, or even siblings from the same home."

"We chose early contact with half-siblings because we felt if he wanted to end contact when he was old enough to choose, he could. But if we waited until he was older, and told him we knew his half-siblings all along, and he wished for that contact, there would be a lot of years and missed opportunities gone. We feel being open, honest, and having connected early on may instill a sense of pride and ward off any shame that may come about if we were secretive about this part of his story and family. We also have a son who was adopted at birth so we are big on celebrating and embracing the ways in which our family came to be."

Thousands of former egg and sperm donors have connected on the DSR.

The Donor Sibling Registry has thousands of donors who are open to contact and there are now many positive donor-to offspring connections.

"My goal in joining this site is to present myself so that if my kids are out there and would like to meet me and/or get to know me, I'm here for them. I welcome and cherish such a special opportunity. I would never want for any child or person for that matter to feel less whole due to not knowing something that is such an instinctual curiosity. From all the information that I've read, early contact and/or at least the knowledge of who a bio father is looks to be very beneficial for the children. As being said, I'm open to early contact and relationship building. I'm here to help and only add to the child's life in a loving and non-intrusive manner. This is all still very new to me but I will always do my best to be a good example, a positive addition, responsive with awareness and care for any communications."

"After about 5 weeks of conversation, [my donor child] told me that he is going to call me Dad from now on and I am his father because the man who raised him until age 15 was never much of a father and I have been more of a father to him in 5 weeks than that man has been his whole life. Very powerful stuff. I tell them this and will continue to tell them all when we connect: 'I have no expectation of what you will call me and how you will identify me. You will struggle to find what to call me. You will have conflicting feelings regarding this and it is normal and ok. You may try out whatever you like for as long as you like and you may change it any time you wish as many times as you like. When you find what works for you, you will feel it.'"

Even children of donors can be curious about their half-siblings.

We often talk about the importance of honesty in families that use donor-conceived life in a

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