**Donor Conceived Children**

* DISCLOSURE
  + Do you want to let your children know they are donor conceived?
  + Sometimes parents don’t want their children to feel different from other families
  + Worry will not feel like a real mom or dad. Fear not feel a bond with a child.
  + Fear donor wil have more importance in their life.
  + Fear will have to share the child with donor.
* PARENT LEGITIMACY
  + I’m afraif I wont feel like a real parents
  + I don’t whant to think abou tit after they’re born
  + May not love me like a real parents
  + Afraif child may say not say I’m your real father or mother
* FEELING DIFFERENT
  + Fear being different from other families
  + Needing to educate others during the process, which can be painful and discouraging. More isolated.
  + Families struggle with making decisions at odds with their family’s wishes

**QUESTIONS TO ASK**

* Explore cultural beliefs. How does the family handle these differences?
* Do we =tell our child? If so, how and when?
* With embryo donation, ask have the embryos have been counseled? The IPs are often very thankful to know that the donors have been counseled.
* What the donor says at ome time, they can change their mind. Parents remember, what we heard at one moment in time may not necessarily hold up
* What about the full-siblings? How do you educate and teach they have full siblings in another family. Brother? Sister? They have a special connection with other kids who have shared genes.

**ADVICE**

* Start talking to children early so they don’t find out later in life (DNA test, sibs).
* Many IPS find it to be helpful to think about epigenetics. A parent feeling resistant to genetic differences realize they have a huge role in influencing their child. Helps the non-genetic parent feeling left out, sadness, grief, loss, help them connect to the family. Important to address to help keep families bonded.
* Teen years—Let your child decide how rthey want to call it with other siblings out there. given them the power to define their relationships with their half-siblings. May start out with a “Special connection”, “genetic father or genetic mother” if they know the person, may call donor
* Sometimes comes up when donor-conceived child has children—may have concerns about genetic disorders.