Supporting donor conception families for over 25 years

JOIN US TODAY

community • workshops • books • conferences
The Donor Conception Network

Founded in 1993, the Donor Conception Network is a parent-led and child-centred organisation offering mutual support with the emotional and social issues that arise when using donor conception. Parents with donor conceived children can support each other and those who are just starting on the journey.

Our members

Our members include people using sperm, egg, double or embryo donation, sometimes with surrogacy, to create or expand their family. They may be having or have had treatment in the UK or abroad (including Spain, Czech Republic and the US) using identifiable, anonymous or known donors. We aim to create a positive, informative and welcoming space for all families and prospective families.

We have around 2000 member households from all over the UK and abroad. Membership is open to anyone at any stage. It doesn’t matter where you are having or have had treatment or what kind of donor you used. We are here to support you. The Network includes married and unmarried couples, single men and women, lesbian and gay couples, parents who have separated or divorced or been widowed.

We also welcome donor conceived adults and any professionals working in the field, such as fertility nurses, counsellors and clinicians.

Annual subscriptions

• Couple household – £55 (£35 low wage)
• Single Adult household – £45 (£25 low wage)

Join us today

The easiest way to join is via our website: www.dcnetwork.org
Any questions please email: membership@dcnetwork.org

Why join?

Most people have questions. We don’t pretend we have all the answers, but after over 25 years we can definitely help.

Visit our website for a wealth of information

Advice and support – telephone or email the office for information, a listening ear or for information on counsellors specialising in donor conception

Join us to have contact with other families

• New members are matched with someone from our welcoming team
• We have a contact list of volunteers offering peer-support
• We have a members’ only forum for discussions
• We have local groups around the UK
• We run conferences where you can meet others, hear presentations and join topic group discussions

News and information – receive our Journal packed with great articles, and our regular email bulletins with news, stories, links and information

Friendship and community – a welcoming space for those considering donor conception and all dc families

Preparation for Parenthood Workshops

We run highly regarded, specialist workshops for people considering donor conception. They are a comfortable and confidential space to think about what it means to you to create or add to your family using a donor. You may have already decided this is the path you are going to take but want to understand a bit more about the implications or you may not yet be clear that donor conception is right for you. The workshop is a chance to gain information and to share your hopes and fears with others. See our website for full details, dates, prices and to book.
Being open about donor conception

The Network was started by five families who had decided to tell their children about their origins and who came together to support each other. At that time secrecy was the norm, and donors were all anonymous.

Nowadays, the recommendations of professionals and researchers back up the decision of those founding families. Lessons from adoption demonstrate that secrets can undermine trust in families and that honesty and openness between parents and children encourages warm relationships. And actually keeping a secret, whilst sounding simple, can be much harder than people think.

But.... we recognise that being open isn't easy for everyone.

You may be unsure whether to tell. If you are using an anonymous donor you may think there's no point when there's no information available. Perhaps you are worried about upsetting or confusing your child, or having personal information made public. These are all very understandable concerns and questions and we can help you think them through.

Getting the balance right between privacy and honesty isn't always easy. Finding the right age, the right words, the confidence, to explain to children or young people how they were conceived can feel daunting. Most parents need support and that's where we come in. Sharing hopes and fears with families in a similar situation helps people feel less isolated and provides them with new ideas and a greater confidence.

We recommend that people explore and work out for themselves the right way and the right time to be open. Telling is a process and each family is different.

Books and Films

Our Story

A unique series of simple story books designed to be read to and with young children, even babies. These illustrated books for children explain in a simple, positive and age-appropriate way the story of how they were conceived and became part of their family.

A wide range of family situations covered, including surrogacy. We also have twins versions for all the books.

Telling and Talking with Children

A series of booklets for parents based on children's developmental stages: 0-7 yrs, 8-11yrs and 12-16yrs. These books provide parents with a source of practical guidance and emotional support in finding the right time and the right language to 'tell' and continue conversations with their children over the years.

Telling and Talking with Family & Friends

This booklet explores how to explain to relatives and friends why you might be considering or have used donor conception. It helps parents and prospective parents think about how to share information with their wider community and what sort of reactions they might get.

Our Family

Our Family is a companion guide, designed to give to family and friends to help them understand your situation better.
Mixed Blessings
A booklet for those who have non-donor conceived children and also have (or are planning to have) children conceived with the help of a donor.

A Different Story...Revisited
An updated 2014 version of the original A Different Story made in 2003. This new DVD includes 2 films featuring children and young people conceived through sperm, egg, embryo or double donation.
- The first film features solo mum and lesbian families
- The second film features heterosexual couple families

Primary Schools Resources
This fantastic resource pack is aimed at families with children roughly 4-12yrs. It includes information on why and how you might want to share information with teachers about the fact that your child is donor conceived. It includes ‘Why Tell?’, ‘Letter to the Teacher’, ‘Information for Teachers’, ‘Classroom Resources’ and ‘Questions from Friends’ (this last one written for children).

"A really big thanks for sending the Primary Schools Resources. Can I just say how useful they were. They helped me gather my thoughts before speaking to the teacher and to feel confident in the reasons why I was sharing the info with her."

For a full list of books and prices and to purchase any items please visit the SHOP on our website

Help and Information Line: 020 7278 2608
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www.dcnetwork.org

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