

What would you like other people considering using donor gametes or donated embryos to know that you have learned?

(305 total)

#	Responses
2	Answered on previous survey (as a parent of DC child)
4	I cannot stress enough how important it is to be open with your children about their genetic origins and allow them to decide for themselves whether they want to find their biological family. The consequences of not telling can be devastating on an individual's identity and the possibility of resentment is high. Moreover, the right to know one's genetic identity is critically important and parents of offspring need to support their children in this if they feel this issue is important. Talk about the issue and make sure they feel loved. Standing on the fence and ignoring it will not help the situation. I was left to discover these issues myself and my parents never talked to me about it in depth when I was growing up. The realization of what the fertility industry had denied me was quite devastating even though I knew I was donor conceived. I accepted the talking points of the industry that my mother passed along. She did not challenge what they told her (except telling me the truth of my origins). Make sure that future offspring can hear both sides of the issue so they can make up their own minds. Don't assume they are not interested if are not immediately outraged. I did not pursue this until I was in my 20s because I simply did not hear the discourse or understand what I had been denied and all of the ethical issues surrounding donor conception.
7	Make sure the child will know who their donor is... Not knowing leaves a hole and it hurts. Not knowing how to fill out a medical form at a doctor's appointment hurts. Not being sure what nationality you are hurts. Remember, it is not just about you wanting a child, it about how that child will feel in the future. I am not against having a child through a donor, just don't take away the child's right to know who they are before they have even been born.
8	just because your donation of genetic material is funded, that does not mean the choice you make will be supported. Just because you have the means and the money, that doesn't mean you have the moral support needed to raise the perfect child. Perfection is, in fact, a limitation, and any child knows this intuitively. we are the organic architects. with that said, donor children should be raised "limitless" - our chances for organic genetic connections are endless.
9	Share the information with your child
12	Please tell your children early. We as offspring deserve to know our history and our family. Possibly, choose a donor willing to at least provide minimal contact after the child reaches the age of majority.
14	Open-Donor first and foremost, where contact can be made when they turn 18. Tell your donor-conceived children early and in an age appropriate way.
15	Always share the truth with your children.
16	Be open. Don't withhold information.
19	Don't do it.
23	nothing in particular

24	I just think those people need to make sure they consider their situation from the point of view of their child when they're a teenager or in their 20s. I'm not saying people should stop using donor gametes/embryos all together, but look at the big picture before you make that decision for you and your child.
25	To be very considerate in mapping out when and how your child will find out about their biological parents. Also, I would suggest an open situation where the child can contact the donor by age 18.
27	Let your kids find there half siblings is an amazing experience
28	At the very least, get rights to all passed, current, and future medical records of the donor. Please educate your donor offspring of their original from day one. It can be a traumatic experience finding this news out when you are an adult.
29	I am just happy to be alive regardless of how I was conceived.
30	Keep as much info as you can for the child. Sometimes just being able to see things with your own eyes helps answer questions.
31	i still consider my dad my dad even if he isn't biologically. it is not a big deal
32	I know my mom agonized over this decision and still feels guilty that I didn't have a father or siblings, but I don't feel that way. I think being an only child was great, and in many ways knowing that my father didn't abandon me or NOT love me was much healthier than many of my peer's relationships with biological fathers.
33	It is important to share with your child at some point the facts of their genetics. Don't hide it or lie.
38	Do not make this decision hastily out of desperation! It has long reaching effects for many people. Carefully consider the impacts this can have on all lives involved AND that you may have different views about this as you mature. Genetics are of major significance and I believe people should have access to this information about themselves and their children.
39	That it really does not have to be a big deal. What matters is that a child is raised in a loving home.
41	Think long and hard before taking the step. The child may/will feel like an outcast. It is a terrible mental state to grow up with. My personal belief is that it is playing God and it is WRONG. I will never feel like a whole person.
45	An open dialogue is the best.
46	That donor offspring need answers
47	Most of the appeal for knowing the donor is informational rather than wanting a connection.
49	It is important to decide at the beginning how and when you tell the offspring of their origin.
51	Explore with a sense of acceptance and gentle curiosity.
54	I wish that they would consider the effects of not knowing your biological heritage on the child, and consider that number of children needing loving homes already.
55	yes.
56	its not such a crazy thing. but it should be taken just as serious as having a child with a normal marital partner(meaning choose the donor wisely, be specific in your wants)
57	The DSR can provide an excellent source of information for everyone involved and it's important to think about not only the donor but also possible sibling relationships.

58	Medical history is important and evolving. You can't just take the donation and forget about it or pretend it didn't happen. It's not fair to the offspring.
59	If you are hesitant about it, don't worry, give it a shot. Your child could grow up to do great things, as long as you provide good parenting and unconditional love. However, tell your child about their biological roots before they are a teenager, then they will be able to grasp it better and won't see it as a "lie" they've been living.
60	I've learned it is possible to connect with your donor and your siblings (with their permission) and it's an interesting experience growing up and talking to others about how I was conceived. I've learned much more about it now than I ever have.
63	I am grateful to have the parents and family that I do. It would have been nice to have been told about being a donor child from my parents instead of an angry relative.
64	It has had no impact on the relationship I have with my parents. I don't think it would have made any difference on the relationship with neither my parents nor my brother. I'm extremely thankful to my donor.
65	You should at the very least give access to medical/health info and know if the donor donates more than once. Honestly, consider why you won't go adopt a kid that already needs a home.
66	I would like them to realize that people have a right to know where they came from and that it's unfair to keep the nature of an assisted conception a secret from any children they may have. A biological parent is not the equivalent of someone who raises you. Because of that I don't think anyone should feel insecure about their children knowing of their donor(s).
67	It's very emotionally difficult not knowing half of yourself.
69	NEVER keep the donor a secret from your child. They should grow up knowing fully where they came from and why so that it is a normal fact/part of their life. Consider the bank you are using and their policies on how many kids per donor. Tons of half-siblings can feel traumatizing and disgusting for your child.
70	Genes don't make the family; your family is who you chose it to be. And donor siblings are fun.
71	Please register so any offspring from your donation can learn about their ethnic, genetic, and trait histories from you. It's so hard not knowing and not having access to information about half of my genetic make up. I don't wish to contact this person or have a relationship with them, I just really wish I knew more about my ethnic background, traits and susceptibility/likelihood of developing illnesses or disorders. It is awful to not have this information as I contemplate having children or one day telling them about their heritage.
72	Just to make sure that medical information and whatever other information you may want farther down the road.
73	It's very important to honestly answer your children's questions. Finding out later that they were lied to is far worse than whatever it means to tell the truth in the first place.
74	Don't do it anonymously.
77	Regardless of how you came to be, it's still your life you're living.
78	I have no idea
79	It is better to tell your children the truth before they find out on their own.
80	You really become a big family with other siblings and parents.

81	Everyone deserves to know where they came from and that includes pictures and a bio of immediate ancestors. Everyone also deserves to know what health issues their immediate ancestors had.
83	Tell the child early on so it doesn't seem like a family secret and offer regular support and access to resources such as DSR.
84	It has strengthened me and my mother's relationship and explained a lot of things in my upbringing.
85	Children have a right to know about their biological parents.
88	For me it hasn't really impacted my life all that much. I have a normal life and a normal family and though I am curious as to who gave me half my DNA it's not a driving force in my life. I love life and love being here and its all thanks to a sperm donor, so if your thinking about it don't be afraid to go for it.
89	Openness and communications between parents and the offspring of a donor contribution is essential - eliminates any sense of secrecy of taboo surrounding the process.
90	It's not something to be afraid of. It has been a very positive experience for me.
92	It's ok not to have kids. Maybe the universe is trying to tell you something.
93	Be honest with the child you are creating.
95	Make sure you have a medical history and fully examine, research, and positively identify that you are willing to go through with using a donor
97	No comment.
98	Pick a donor who you could find information on in the future
99	It's a bad idea. It's a bad way to raise a child, and by doing it you're supporting an evil industry. Adopt instead, and give a needy kid a good home.
100	Life is what you make of it, have fun with what you know.
101	Tell your child from birth. Try to have information about the donor and donor sibs available to the child so they do not feel like they are missing information.
102	Growing up not knowing a parent is really difficult. So if they are planning on using a donor, make sure the child will get the option to know about the donor.
103	We have questions.
104	It is an option for people who want to conceive but cannot on their own. It doesn't mean that the child will be "messed up" when they grow up. They will become the person you raise them to be.
105	We are not God.
106	It's really hard being a donor offspring
107	I think it's important to tell the offspring of a donor as early as possible that they are donor-conceived. It takes time to understand completely, so the earlier a child knows, the easier it is to comprehend as they age.
111	yes sure. and for the question about religion... Jewish culture was important but it wasn't religious
112	If donor gametes are being used by a heterosexual couple that the non-biological father carefully consider the implications of having a non-biological child prior to having that child.

115	look for known donors if you can so the offspring doesn't have to search.
116	Don't use fertility treatments. Adopt. Its morally and ethically less selfish in every way.
117	The people who raise you are what matters.
118	Hope for the best but expect the worst.
121	Be open and honest with your children. It's unsettling for a child to not fully understand why they don't look/act like others from the same family. There was a centered-ness/peacefulness that I acquired when the truth of my conception came out. I also had more respect for my father.
123	I turned out fine.
125	I would stress the necessity to tell children that they have been conceived through donor conception very early in their lives. This was what my mother did for me and so there were no big shocks; it was just a natural part of life and I took it as a matter of course. So there wasn't a lot of weirdness around it, beyond things like Father's Day (when all the children in class had to make gifts for their father) and sometimes imagining what my father must look/be like. I would propose the idea of moving away from complete anonymity and give the child the option to have more details/contact info of their donor (like when they're 18 or something). Not everyone is as lucky as were to find our donor and tons of people are left not knowing. I think that this is something that people can get over (like I was able to lead a healthy, positive life and not have it be such a huge factor in my consciousness) but nonetheless it will often be a question mark. And for many people, it will probably be even more important than just a question mark! I would also stress for the single-mother donors not to be discouraged about not having a partner; sometimes a parent who really cares and puts effort and lots of love and understanding into a child can more than make up for not having a second parent.
126	It is a process you and everyone involved has to be comfortable with. If a husband and wife are considering it, both parties must feel comfortable with it. When you are in a donor family you have to be open and honest with each other, respect each others views and emotions, and support each other. Make sure you are comfortable with your doctor, bank, and the guidelines of the donation and agreements you make, otherwise seek other doctors, banks or facilities that will fit your needs and comfort levels. Think of your children first, because this will never be a decision they can make for themselves but it will be a decision they will always have to live with. Make sure that you can guide them and give them all the love support and info that they need when it comes to their feelings about the donor. If I didn't have these fundamentals in my family, I don't know if being a donor child would be as easy for me as it has been.
128	Its up to them
129	You are your own person. Live your own life.
130	The people I have encountered (albeit online) who are donor conceived, who have the most problem with it, seem to be the ones who didn't have two parents present - or a positive and active male role model who figured into their lives. I am very thankful I grew up with great parents and thankful to the donor who allowed my parents to create a family. I am lucky. My problems today and truly my whole life have been first-world problems. I have a very good life.

134	Times have changed since the first generation of cryokids. Our parents meant well when they decided to donor conceive, and we can't blame them for that. They did the best they could given the state of donor conception policies at the time, and now we (parents, cryokids, donors) know that anonymous conceptions can have a negative psychological effect on children. But in the end run, our parents loved us enough to choose, purposefully and determinedly, to have us! That is special.
137	Don't lie or not tell your children and use it as leverage to your spouse in blackmail.
140	Your child may feel differently than you do about the importance of knowing a donor's identity.
143	Don't do it man
144	That it is a very big commitment that should only be done by someone mature enough to face all possible consequences!
145	Go for it!
146	You baby will be your baby, no matter how it was conceived.
147	Do it if you really want the child. My parents really wanted me and I am loved and have a wonderful family. Don't expect anything of donor siblings/their parents/the donor, though.
148	Get all the donor information you can so your child has chance of finding their donor.
149	I believe it's within the donor-concieved's rights to have basic information about the donor and raw genetic data, with updates of health issues, even if it is anonymous. I also feel that we should know how many reported donor siblings we have, and have an easy way of letting them track us down if they are interested.
151	They should always expect that someday their offspring will come looking for them. It's natural to want to know about and meet the person you came from.
154	To talk to their children about meeting their siblings earlier in life.
156	That u are robbing person of half their identity and they will for sure have issues in life
158	#yolo
159	It's all good
160	Genes really do matter, I am very similar to my brother even though we've only known each other for a few months.
161	Donor conception is a difficult and multifaceted issue. Learning that one was donor conceived can be difficult to process. It is without a doubt best to inform children of their origins as soon as possible.
162	Be aware of the shades of gray of this process. Know what you want out of it. Don't expect to meet the donor. Manage your expectations when/if you do meet the donor or siblings, so that you are not disappointed.
164	The fact that I'm a sperm-bank baby has very little effect on my daily life. It's no big deal!
165	The Donor is very important. You should know as much as possible.
166	It can be hard on the kid to not know who the donor is and not be allowed to meet them
167	Think it through. It's not all about you.

168	If you are a single parent, do your child a favor and at least bring in an influence from the other sex if you and your donor-conceived child are different sexes. Don't let your child "raise themselves" if they are the other sex. It helps to have someone of the same sex as you teach you some basics in life, especially at a young age.
169	Make sure that you have the option of contacting the donor. To some of my siblings it is extremely important. Also, definitely contact the siblings when you think your child is ready.
170	Not knowing who the donor is will be a question on your child's mind.
171	that the DSR is a valuable network for finding donors and siblings
172	It's important to connect young or try to because having that line for your child is important, especially if they are an only child and/or of same sex parents because it's someone to relate to and feel included with in a society that is so different than you and your family.
173	Sure
174	use an open donor.
175	How important honesty and openness is with he offspring about their origins. Get an open donation if you can.
176	There are children who already exist who need homes. You don't need to make them and deny them a parent. Your need for genetic connection is not more important than your child's.
177	That personality IS genetically heritable. Some of my personality quirks are directly traceable to somewhere in my mom's family, but a great many of them are completely random. I have no one to look to as an example, no one to talk to about understanding why I am the way that I am when it comes to certain things.
178	It is important to be open and honest early on with your donor conceived child. And try to provide as much information and details about their donor as possible. It should be their living right to have this information.
180	Don't make the decision lightly.
181	No anonymous donation. It's unfair to the children being born.
182	That I think most donor offspring would like to at least have the chance to know who their donors are without having to go about the whole dog and pony show of playing detective and finding the donor if the donor is "anonymous." Go for the non-anonymous donation, for the sake of the offspring.
184	Be thoughtful and calculated when it comes time to let your children know that they are the product of a donor or donors.
185	It can be difficult to navigate identity but we live in a modern world and there are bigger problems.
186	Please consider the consequences of what you are doing on the lives on the offspring. It makes a lot of things in their lives more difficult and leaves holes for them. It also encourages behavior of the donor receiver that is contrary to God's design.
188	It is wonderfully empowering to those who would like to persue pregnancy and parenthood but may not be able or would prefer not to go about it via traditional means. It has in no way had a negative impact on my life
189	It has not influenced my life majorly. I have a great, happy life.

190	Gather as much health information as you can before selecting a donor and ensure that it will be available to you and your child(ren) in the future. Encourage your child(ren) to ask questions - be open to discussion. Let them know that their curiosity is normal and that you won't take it personally.
191	The offspring will have questions about where they came from, if nothing else just medical history. Make sure you can provide some information to them.
194	Using donor sperm or embryos is a step-parent adoption. It's not a cure for infertility. The infertility remains and must be resolved. Pretending the child is the biological child of one parent when he or she is not is a recipe for disaster. Building a family on a foundation of lies is a foundation that will eventually crumble. And your children will never forgive you for lying to them. Respect them and tell them the truth. Love them, but given them what's real and honest and they'll love and respect you back.
195	Don't do it. Having a child is not a right.
196	this is a human trafficking loop-hole
197	Go to a clinic that does NOT use anonymous donors. This greatly benefits your child/children.
198	Please refer to my previous soapbox. It's an industry, not a beautiful, altruistic, touchy-feely thing. The children are commodities - that's it. People shouldn't be doing this and are greedy, self-important creatures who have been taught that if they want something then they should damn well have it. Instant gratification. That shouldn't be the business of making children.
201	There really isn't much that I could tell them, other than to help their children figure out a way to explain to others how they were conceived. That was the only real difficult I experienced growing up. And don't keep it hidden from your children, they'll figure it out eventually/
202	It's good to know who the donor is. Whether you want a relationship with them is up to you and your child, but at least know who they are.
203	I would say that it is a great thing not to be anonymous. It helps the child who will be conceived.
204	This text box isn't big enough and I don't have enough time to write what I would want others to know. The biggest thing is that biology is important; it's important enough to the intended parents that they are pursuing the use of a "donor" rather than adoption, and it is equally important to the child who is created via "donor" gametes. But the child is usually told that biology doesn't matter. The importance is a two-way street.
205	It's a selfish concept and you should adopt.
206	That being a donor baby WILL affect your child. You can't pretend it won't. Those children will have questions about where they come from, and why, and what it means. Be prepared. And try to gather as much information as you can so that you can help to fulfill your child's need to know everything about who s/he is.
207	Think about not doing it
208	Don't use an anonymous donor
211	It's ultimately their decision, but make sure you tell your kid about it when they're old enough.
212	Go for it, but do not keep it a secret from your children in any way: that is what hurts donor children most of all and gives them identity crises. Also, get and keep as much information about the donor as you can.

213	Most certainly.
214	I do not know
215	my mom was very open to me about everything, I learned about all of this at a very young age because whenever I asked questions she answered as best she could to make me understand. I think the best advice would be to be honest to your children if you decide to use donated sperm or eggs because it is an atypical situation and if you're able to understand how you were created from a young age and incorporate it into your personality as a matter of fact then you don't have to start processing this new information after you already have a different image of yourself.
216	As long as you raise your kid with conviction, there's NO need for another parent
217	in all likelihood, the child, if he/she is told, or discovers, that he/she is donor-conceived, will in all likelihood eventually want information about the donor, even if it is just medical/genetic /genealogical. I strongly recommend not using an anonymous donor. I have spent countless hours and genetic testing on multiple websites trying to discover my donor's identity so that I can find out more about these things.
219	That it is a great way to conceive children if you're not in a heterosexual relationship.
220	It's very different from the "normal" way. Kids will raise questions and it might be heartbreaking because of course they will want to know who they are truly related to. I don't know but if I was in that place of the parent who raised the child their whole life and if the child viewed me different that would be DEVASTATING. I didn't have a father growing up but if I did he would be my true father because he raised me and loved me. And that's what you need to teach your children that true family isn't based off of genetics but who loves you the most.
221	It is important to use a donor that the donor-conceived person can trace once they reach adulthood, to tell the donor-conceived person the truth about their conception and to tell them as early as possible.
222	Anonymity is destructive.
224	My two moms were always clear from my earliest memories that my donor and his other offspring were genetically related but only they were my "real" family. They did this to bolster my relationship with my non-biological mom (especially since these were the days before gay marriage), and although this line had led me to be perhaps too indifferent toward my donor, it did work to give my moms equal standing and protected me from any feelings of abandonment or emptiness from not knowing the donor.
225	its rough to have no information about half of your genes.
226	Although using a donor may be presented as a "treatment" to infertility, it has far reaching impacts on your child's life that you will not be able to understand if you are not donor-conceived.
227	Its a great way to offer life for people who cannot achieve it naturally. If you're 100% that you want a child then go for it, sometimes its hard for the kid but they learn to deal with it in their own way.
228	It's an important option for people to have when considering having a child, and it hasn't affected my life negatively at all.
230	This is not an easy journey. If there is any way I can help, form a support group, have more online reading material, create more discussion about donor insemination I would ...

231	The child is affected emotionally and physically even though it is the parent's decision. It affects my life.
234	Genetics do not equal family.
236	yes
237	I have learned nothing whatsoever.
240	It is a big decision. Please try to think about the effects of your actions on all parties. Donors, donor's partners, parents, donor offspring, parent's partners, etc.
241	If you want to have children but can't naturally conceive, donor sperm is a great solution. If the father is worried, don't be. I view my non-biological dad as my sole dad and love him dearly. He has helped shape who I am today.
242	-
243	Raise your child to know that they were conceived through a donor. It will be so much easier on them.
244	being born from this method can be confusing and stressful for a child get the child counseling at different period of their life to make sure they are handling it well
245	That the genetic inheritance is an interesting curiosity but once you are born you have it. Knowing more about it (with the exception of trying to understand medical determinants) will not change your life.
247	Nothing
248	Yes, and to strongly consider what an anonymous donor could mean to their child.
249	Every child deserves to have their own biological mother/father/siblings/extended bio and social family play a meaningful role in their life. Don't intentionally bring a person into the world intentionally denied that ability by design. There is no such thing as a 'donor' in relation to any offspring - regardless of how they were conceived. This is an outrageously wrong practice. Don't do it.
253	That it is a recipe for unhappiness that has no positive benefits for the donor conceived person. It works great for animals but it should have stayed in the farm yard. Society will reap a bitter harvest from ART in the long term.
254	I wouldn't be here if my parents hadn't decided to use a sperm donor so I'm obviously a little biased but I think that anyone who is unable to conceive the natural way should definitely consider using donor eggs/sperm/embryos. I think it's important to be honest with your kids about where they come from and respect their level of interest in the subject.
255	sure
256	It's not regulated and you can end up with 300 donor siblings. Since a lot of donor conceived individuals don't even know they're donor conceived one could marry their sibling (which has happened) and not know. Family medical history, at a minimum, should be known
258	I don't think it's a good idea. It is too hard on the non-biological parent. This survey keeps getting stupider. It doesn't even list "retired" as a "present employment/student situation".
260	This is a life long adventure. It takes a while to learn things, but if you approach this experience with an enthusiastic, open mind, it will be very rewarding.
261	You should definitely tell the child. But it's difficult to decide how and when. Be open.

262	that it's important to go to a bank that will let your kids find out who their biological father/mother is if they would like
263	I cannot comment on couples looking to use donor gametes/embryos. But in terms of single parents, I think it is a great opportunity. However, you must consider the impact on both you and you're child's life, and make sure you are willing to open to the child about their origins
265	Think about what how the kid will feel if they can never know half of who they are
266	Don't keep it from your kids ever. And be open to their questions and discussions. Be supportive of their decision to meet or not meet siblings and/ or donor.
267	There are repercussions to your decision to create a family this way. You can't predict or control the way your child will view this decision. Secrecy should be avoided. Be open and find out as much information as you can. Read up on everything to do with donor conception. Do your research. This is a big decision. Don't take it lightly.
268	Tell your conceived children early. Make it a part of their life.
269	I was lucky that my mom was always open and honest that I was born through a sperm donation. I also feel really lucky that I've gotten to meet my donor.
270	That it's hard, and hurts sometimes, but worth it if you really want a kid
271	There is always that curiosity there about what the donor looked like and their personality. Also if you look like any of their family and if you could help with blood or other organ donations etc.
272	The Kids are not necessarily Alright! The fertility industry is a multi-billion dollar machine that does not necessarily have you or your offspring's best interests at heart. It is your responsibility to educate yourself about the experiences of donor conceived people (many of us are now speaking out about our struggles with having been "donor" conceived), and make the best choices you can for your future children! Be cognizant that the decisions you make now will effect them for the rest of their lives, including their relationship with you! They will be looking to you for answers one day. Please please make decisions with your children in mind: Use an open ID/willing to be known "donor", use an ethical sperm bank (I think there's only one!), tell your children the truth about their conception from the very beginning, accept whatever their interest level is and realize it may change over time, please DO NOT BE threatened by their interest - they have enough love for all of you!!! Recognize that it is completely normal for them - and everyone else - and want to know their biological family - both their "donor" (who they may consider their "mother/father" not just a "donor") and any "donor" siblings (which they may simply consider their siblings). Educate yourself, deal with infertility (if it is an easy in your family), make choices that honor your future children and that protect their rights (to know where they come from, etc.), and always tell the truth. Nothing good will ever come from keeping secrets. And the truth will come out one day.
273	I am using donor sperm to conceive my own family due to a genetic condition carried by my husband. Get a full medical background including addiction/mental health.
274	Do it if it is right for you. Understand that the genes of the child will not be 100% yours (/or your partners'), but you will bring the child up and influence more than any other human(s). Also realize that your child may have a different feeling about the donor and their donor siblings than you do.

275	Donors should always be open or willing to be known. Cutting off children from half of their genetic heritage serves no one but sperm banks and their bottom line (and, in some cases, nervous parents who don't want to face the full ripple effects of the way they choose to have a family).
277	That it's a neat experience because you can meet new family members and you can learn more about the power of genetics. It's also a great way for you to be grateful about being born.
278	My parents will always be my parents. I will never think of my donor as my father. I appreciate that my parents wanted to be parents so bad that they spent all that money, time, and emotional effort to conceive me.
279	It's a great idea! I don't feel abnormal or screwed up at all. If that's what you have to do have children, do it!
280	keep track of your donor number so you don't have to jump through hoops to find it from 30 yr old records
281	I don't think I understand this question...
282	Only do it if information about the donor will be released and if the donor is willing to make contact at any time or when child is 18.
284	Use an open donor only.
286	Don't keep it a secret.
287	I recommend being open and honest with the child from the very beginning.
288	Think about the kids, not yourselves. Anonymity is wrong.
289	Tell the offspring from a young age, never let it be a secret. Talk openly about it. You'll do more damage being secretive than you will being open.
290	Make sure your kids know that just because part of their genetic background is out of sight there is nothing about them or their lives that is missing or incomplete. Let your kids approach the situation however they do and be supportive of their choices. Just be good parents. (As if it were so easy.)
291	Just because people are biologically related, it doesn't make them a family. Having children or brothers and sisters is a wonderful thing, and if someone is willing to go through this process, they deserve to be a parent. It's a weird and scary thing, but the most important thing is being a loving and supportive family. Watching my parents go through this process twice, I know it is hard emotionally and physically. Know that it might not work the first time, but try again and it might. I love the family I have, and am very grateful to the donors and doctors who gave it to me.
292	To not lie to the offspring about how they were conceived and who their biological parents are...and to realize that unless they themselves are donor conceived that they will never have a REAL understanding of what it feels like to not know both biological parents.
293	be honest up front with your children about their creation. it is wonderful to be loved and wanted, and ok to be different

294	They should know that the program is very unregulated. It can be difficult for children who grow up in these situations. For me, with a single, heterosexual mother, it was easy because I knew from the beginning that my father was a donor and that I probably would never meet him. But for the children who find out that their father is a donor when they are older it is much harder because it could create a sense of distrust between family members. Especially for the child who grew up with a dad who turns out not to be related to him/her because of an infertility issue. Also, you have to be careful who you date!
295	I have no knowledge that I feel a need to impart.
296	That there is a lot of benefits and great things that come along with it.
297	That they are creating real people who deserve the same right to know where they came from as anyone else- including the donors and parents themselves!!!
298	So many ramifications of this decision.
300	Tell your kids EARLY!!!!!!
301	I think you should first consider using sperm or embryos from your extended family if available. Then the genetics are close at hand. If you use a donor, be upfront from the beginning. Mid life surprises are ridiculous and hard to deal with. Be open and sensitive to your children's feelings. If you will ever feel hurt if they want to find their donor, maybe you should not use a donor.
303	Just be open about it with your kids and know that not everyone will take it the same way. I've learned that if you're open about people don't really care and as a kid I just thought it was interesting.
304	nothing
305	That it is really important to talk to your family about it
306	Do your research. Don't pick a donor that has an STD. This family life feels normal

307	<p>I was 16 when my mom told me. I was surprised but not completely since I didn't look a lot like people in my family. I'm kind of a science/genetics nerd so I thought it was neat. At the same time it would have been nice knowing the entire time but I wasn't super upset. I think it might have been different if I had a closer relationship with my dad but my parents were getting divorced and we weren't getting along so in some respect I as glad not to be genetically related. I don't think about my sperm donor often but every once and awhile it comes over me and I think about him and wonder what he's like, what he's doing now. sometimes it is a struggle because in a way I do not know half of myself. I have my mother's nose and short stature, but the rest of me is a mystery. This mystery is my life's great adventure. Knowing about my donor (even the little that i do) is important because it is half of my genetic makeup, and yet most of the time it's not important at all. I have a wonderful life, great friends and family, and many many years ahead of me. It's only in those small moments that he surfaces in my mind. and despite my curiosity, my longing to connect or at least know something more about him, my annoyance that I cannot, and my sometimes sadness that I do no know him - I am thankful. Thankful for the joy he brought my parents and family. Thankful for the life he gave me. And thankful for the note he wrote on his donor application sheet: "Live a happy life and don't forget where you come from". The biggest thing is that you made the decision to conceive a child in a way that has challenges and consequences but is also so amazing and incredible. You have no way of knowing how your child will react or deal with the knowledge of his/her conception and their feelings may oscillate back and forth over time - this is definitely a lifelong journey. It will be your child's choice as to how he/she takes this truth and choose to live his/her life. It is completely possible to have a full, rewarding life or, on the other side, to live adrift in some abyss grieving the unknown, the loss, being forever wondering/angry. But for as many "horror" stories as there are out there...I'd imagine there is an equal number of donor offspring who, although probably curious about their donor, are well-rounded, positive, loving beings who don't view their beginnings as a hindrance.</p>
309	<p>If you feel it is something that will be beneficial and continue to live a life of love and fulfillment, do it.</p>
310	<p>When choosing a donor, make sure that they have a complete profile and include, at the very least, a picture of themselves.</p>
311	<p>A family with children conceived with donated sperm is just as viable, loving, and connected as any other family. The most healthy conception of a donor for the children is for the donor to be very unimportant in their conception of their family. Discourage your friends from asking them, "Don't you want to meet your father?" I had no desire to meet my donor, and it was distressing when people insisted about this. Help them come up with possible answers when people ask about it. The most important thing is for the children to feel strong and assured about themselves and their family.</p>
313	<p>Not really anything</p>
314	<p>It's worth it, but be honest with yourselves and your offspring about it.</p>
315	<p>The best thing to do is think about the future. Are you sure you want to do this? And if you do, it might seem like it sucks that you can't know your/their biological family. But, hopefully in the future you will.</p>
316	<p>Let your offspring know their origins. As a donor conceived adult I have no negative feelings toward my origins, only positive ones.</p>
317	<p>Do not use anonymous donations.</p>

319	Be honest and don't destroy any information. It may be useful later.
321	I want them to know that genetic heritage is important and that they should respect their children's rights to know about their conception and their donor. I would also like them to know that building a family by donor gametes is different to having genetic children of your own and implies many challenges.
322	Tell your children as soon as possible! The damage for trust towards their parents will be worse, the longer you'll wait. And make sure your children feel loved and accepted no matter how they have been conceived.
324	Nothing
325	honestly is the most important thing from the beginning
326	DC offspring should have the right to know who they originate from It is about acknowledging that a family is created that way, it is about adjusting the whole system and in treating the parents and donors with that thought in mind. Also regulation and better control by independent organizations
327	Do not use anonymous donors, PLEASE!
328	For me it is a very painful thought that my own biological father did not care about what his genetic material would be used for. He doesn't care about me. I know he was probably not fully aware of what he was doing at the time of the donation, but I still think it is a painful thought. I also think it's wrong to "abuse" young men who are not fully aware that they are giving away their own potential children. I think donor conception messes with people's lives in ways that may have not been intended, but in ways that should be prevented in the future based on what we know now.
330	As long as you are honest with your child about how they were conceived and make it clear who their family is (doesn't have to be based on genetics) it's a very healthy and responsible option.
332	n/a
333	That even though I'm not related to my dad, he's still my dad and no one can change that.
334	Do it! It's a great choice that will allow you to meet great people. Don't listen to what others say and listen you our heart.
335	To just be aware that it is easier knowing from the start, little kids don't care, their little friends won't either. Let them grow up with the truth.
336	Genetics don't really matter. Neither do typical societal ideas about families. Or government documents about families.
337	That taking the genetic origin of a child away is wrong. Parents who cannot accept the genetic origin of their child are not very good parents cause they do not accept their child.
338	Think about it... the child didn't, t asked for live... and do not take an anonymous donor...
339	Please consider how any children you may have using donor gametes may feel about your choice when they are old enough to understand.
340	It is unnatural and i think you put a high burden on the children. I advice not to keep it a secret from the children, they probably will suspect something is wrong anyway, and that will only cause a lot of questions and troubles
342	Its a pain in the ass.

343	Being the child of a sperm donor can be confusing.
344	Unless you were adopted or similarly conceived, it is difficult to understand how your child will feel with respect to this aspect of his or her life.
345	<p>Much of what I feel and think about Artificial Reproductive Technologies, I have been able to give expression to through my study of Catholic theology, though my opinions on the matter are much more broadly applicable. I believe that every child is a gift and that every person has inherent dignity, and that every child deserves to be treated as such. Though I recognize the good of the desire to have children as well as the terrible pain caused by these desires going unrealized, I have doubts that ARTs uphold these two principles of giftedness and dignity. Since children are ultimately people, no one has a right to a child anymore than any person has a right to another. A child deserves to be welcomed into a family with an openness to whoever he or she is as his or her own person. This welcome and an "openness to the unbidden" is what should normally happen within a family - but when someone chases after something he or she rightly longs for but perhaps not-so-rightly believes he or she has a right to, the attitude of welcome is broken. A child is created for another's purpose, with a level of control that undermines openness to the child's personhood. His or her gender can be chosen, his traits hand-picked, the parts of his reproduction are bought and sold on a sliding scale. A cynical view - perhaps, but one that is my reality nonetheless. At the least, I would strongly encourage prospective parents of donor children to honestly evaluate their perception of what a child is. Is she meant to be mainly her own person, or mainly yours? Is she her own end, or simply the fulfillment of your desires? What if he doesn't become who you imagined he would, despite the traits you select, and is more like the donor than like you? Will you let him be who he is, seek out role models to whom he can relate? I know my mother loves me a great deal, as I love her, but our relationship has always been strained.</p> <p>The control I see her having exerted over the terms of my birth is the same control I see in her view of my person. I have questions and curiosities about the donor who allowed for my conception - questions about one's origins will pretty much be a given. There exists somewhere a person from whom I received half of my genetic code, and I don't even know his first name. Are you prepared to allow your child to investigate his or her origins in the future? Lastly, I would suggest adoption as an alternative. Though adopted children will ultimately have many of the same questions, they already exist, upholding the principle of giftedness. Why pour thousands of dollars into the creation of a child when there are already so many?</p>
346	Medical facilities are not required to keep records beyond 7 years.
348	It helps create life and if the kids want to find their donor, let them.
350	Pass along family medical information at least, please.
351	For the sake of your children and future children, please don't cut off all possible ties to their genetic parents. If you must use donor gametes, please use only a known or willing-to-be-known donor, so that they have access to their genetic past, to their heritage, to their full medical history, and so they can learn the full story of where they came from. Don't make them wonder who their genetic parents are, with the possibility that they may never know.
352	It is not the quote 'Blood is thicker than water' but instead 'Blood of the covenant is thicker than the water of the womb'. In other words, the relationships you make are stronger than whatever argument another person makes about blood being the most important thing in a relationship.
353	If you're looking for half-siblings, then even if you haven't found anyone for a very long time, don't give up!

354	It's complicated. I am not sure that they should do it.
355	That sometimes it's not what you've wished for. It's not going to be a perfect scene out of a movie, it's going to be hard and if it pays off it'll be hugely rewarding. Children should get to know their family. I think it greatly effects the children not knowing who their real dad or mom is
356	I have no sage advice. Sorry.
357	Always be open and honest. There is nothing wrong or embarrassing about the situation. Embrace your life and the decisions made by you it your parents. These choices were made out of love and being a donor child makes you no less of a person.
358	I would tell people who are going to use donor gametes or embryos that they should tell their kids where they came from as soon as they are old enough to understand. If they show an interest in meeting siblings, try and find them, it is a rewarding experience.
360	I think they should be upfront about the situation to their children and not to keep it a secret from them.
361	Anonymity is bad. Give children the option to know their parents.
364	Think about the children!
365	Tell your children and remember the details - my mom does not remember much and did not keep much. It was very secretive in my family which is not the best way to enter into this.
366	Don't be ashamed at all. The people I have told about it are completely understanding, and are actually super jealous that I have siblings that could be anywhere in the world.
367	I am a very normal person. Being a donor-conceived child has no bearing on my choices in life. It has not had an adverse effect on me at all. If anything I think that it's pretty cool.
369	Don't do it.
370	no not like this they should have a change to know there parents
371	I would like for them to consider adoption. If they HAD to create a new human, I would ask them to use a donor that would be in the child's life. Just as they feel that need to have a biological child, the child (and then donor conceived adult) feels the need to know their biological parents. I did not have that option, and I have major identity issues (I feel "cloned" from my mother even though we are VERY different people).
372	That donors can lie about their medical histories and that sperm banks do not abide by the rules that they say the will.
373	Family is not genetics, but genetics matter on many other levels
374	I would recommend to be as open as possible about the fact that donor material is involved, because secrets destroy families long term.
376	Pick someone you is tall and skinny, with no health problems, and don't be afraid to search for the donor or siblings of your child because they are family too
379	Family is about love and care, about the people that surround you and that love you. They are the people to turn to when you need something, and they will always help you. This has nothing to do with genes.
380	I would tell them my point of view

381	If using a donor is the only way to have a child and you want one then it is better than not having one. But the child might not feel like embracing their donor and his or her family in their life.
382	don't know
383	That even though for some there may be a stigma not having a partner (or viable eggs or sperm) you shouldn't hesitate to have a child anyway because donation is an amazing thing.
384	Family is what you make it.
386	If their doing this with the intent of best interest of the child, it's cruel to create a child with the intent of separating them from their biology. Also donor conception that involves money commodifies children.
389	that honesty is the absolute best policy, to tell early and to have information accessible for donor conceived people is the best way to feel complete and like you understand yourself.
390	Think about what you would think if your future child wants to meet the donor. Don't leave that choice only for your child. Be open to the child about it all.
391	Anonymity should be abolished. It is very likely that a "Donor-Conceived" adult will harbor resentment of the parent who used an anonymous "donor." There is no way to keep their conception story from them, however, as science has now shown that genetic testing, recessive vs. dominant traits carried, and disease/blood typing will show them the truth. It is better to use open donors, and allow a child to make their own decisions as an individual person as to whether or not they have contact with their biological father/mother.
393	Creating a child through artificial insemination should not be taken lightly. Children produced through this method are bound to have questions that they may never have answered. It is also something that I think is best told to the child early in life so that they do not feel turned upside down later in life. I am blessed to be a donor child and to have a mother who absolutely loves and appreciates my existence every single day.
394	This may not work for everyone, but I have always known about my conception, and I think that was very positive - it was just a fact, not a big deal. Also, try your utmost to find someone who will be a long-term father to your child as early as possible.
395	That they make a well-thought out decision. Always be honest to the donor conceived child, never tell lies and always be open about it.
397	just don't do it if you don't have to. if you do, use a known donor or an identifiable one if you can't use a known one
398	That it is worth it and can be a very interesting experience.
399	Be sure your children will have access to information on their donor, and opportunity to connect with siblings
400	i have learned nothing
401	That it doesn't matter who your biological parents are, it's about who loves and cares for you.
402	Make sure that the child grows up knowing about his or her family and how he or she was conceived. Don't keep it a secret. It's better to grow up knowing it than have to learn during a science class blood test.or something
405	I have no idea.

406	listen to your kids - youth are very capable of understanding and navigating complexity IF they have the love and support of families.... Do not threatened by bio-connection your child has with others - they do not detract from your family unit - only add to it.
407	think about all the possible opinions the child could have about it in the future. I would suggest using an anonymous donor that can be searched for when the child is 18. When it comes to looking for the donor, be open to what the child wants; DO NOT push them one way or another.
408	I think access to genetic information is so important. Records should be consistent across banks. And the ability to find a donor after age 18 should be valued as the standard, where possible. Men and women donors should be given lots of information about the legal process of opting to be a known donor, instead of the other way around.
409	I would highly recommend contacting the donor ASAP unless you have a really strong reason not to. Only one of my siblings and I were able to have any contact with bio-dad because he died three months after we (she and I are three days apart) turned 18. I have an older donor sibling who never got around to it. (This is the reason for the negative answers about the donor dad in previous questions on this page. I would absolutely share happy/bad news with him, invite him to my wedding, and include him as a member of my nuclear family if he were still alive.) Seriously, life is short, and you don't know what might happen. I'm so incredibly thankful that I got the opportunity to speak with him and get to know him before he passed away.
410	Wanting a relationship with your donor/sometimes wanting a "father" figure doesn't mean that you don't love your parents or don't think lesbian couples make great parents
411	For me it's very important that the sperm donors realise that they create life. It's not just an opportunity to earn some money. And it's also very important to tell the children about it. When I found out I was 21 and that was definitely too late. I'm really not against sperm donation but it has to be done with a lot of responsibility.
412	Don't keep it a secret. Tell kids at the correct age how they where conceived.
413	Just be open about talking about it within your family.
414	You are giving someone the opportunity to improve the world by raising a human being but it should be up to that human being to decide what role you play in that.
417	Think about the child who will result from the donation. They deserve transparency about the way they were created and to learn about you, as you will make up half of them.
420	Always tell the children who they are, where they come from and how they came to be. Learning about it when you're older feels like a massive betrayal. I figured it out myself as a teenager but wish I had been told from the beginning.
421	I would want people to think about the child coming out of it. Think about the questions and the not knowing.
422	Avoid donor sperm, it will never be a true family. Be happy as you are with or without children. choose to adopt in any case.
423	That mysteries can hunt your mind forever. Openness and answers is the best cure.
(305 total)	