

IN THE WINTER 2019 AND SPRING 2020, OUR RESEARCH TEAM MET 46 PARENTS AND 32 DONOR-CONCEIVED TEENAGERS, IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC, TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FAMILY TIES IN THE CONTEXT OF DONOR INSEMINATION.

WE ASKED PARENTS TO TELL US HOW THEY EXPERIENCED THE DISCLOSURE OF DONOR INSEMINATION TO THEIR CHILDREN.

Here is what they said



episode 5 - DISCLOSURE OF DONOR USE



SOME FATHERS FEAR THAT DURING ADOLESCENCE, WHEN CONFLICTS ARISE, THEIR CHILD WILL USE THE FACT THAT THEY WERE DONOR-CONCEIVED AS AN ARGUMENT AGAINST THEM.



MOST PARENTS TELL THEIR CHILDREN HOW THEY WERE CONCEIVED FROM AN EARLY AGE



SOME PARENTS PREFER TO WAIT FOR THEIR CHILD'S QUESTIONS RATHER THAN ANTICIPATE THEM.

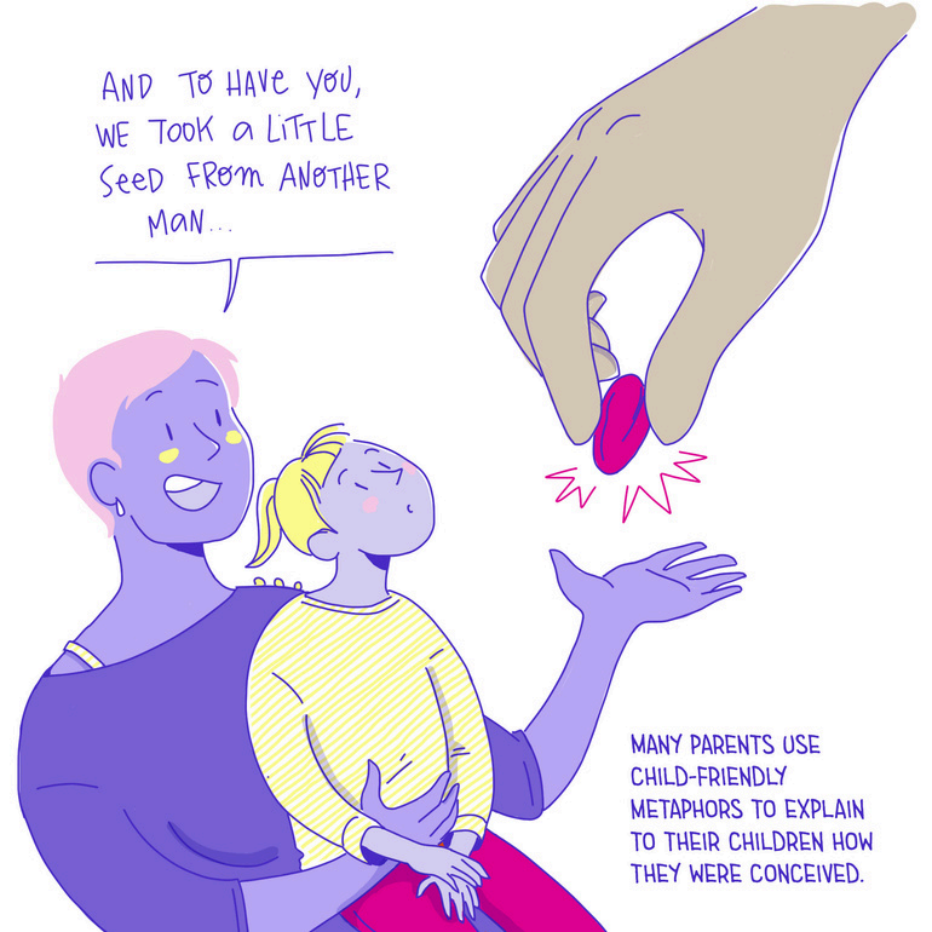




DISCLOSURE IS NOT A ONE-OFF EVENT. IT'S A PROCESS THAT TAKES PLACE OVER TIME. AS SUCH, PARENTS DON'T DISCLOSE THE MODE OF CONCEPTION JUST ONCE, THEY REPEAT THEIR EXPLANATIONS, ADAPTING THEM TO THE CHILD'S AGE.



ONLY A FEW FAMILIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO USE BOOKS TO HELP THEM DISCLOSE. BUT OVERALL, PARENTS AREN'T GUIDED ENOUGH THROUGH THE DISCLOSURE PROCESS.

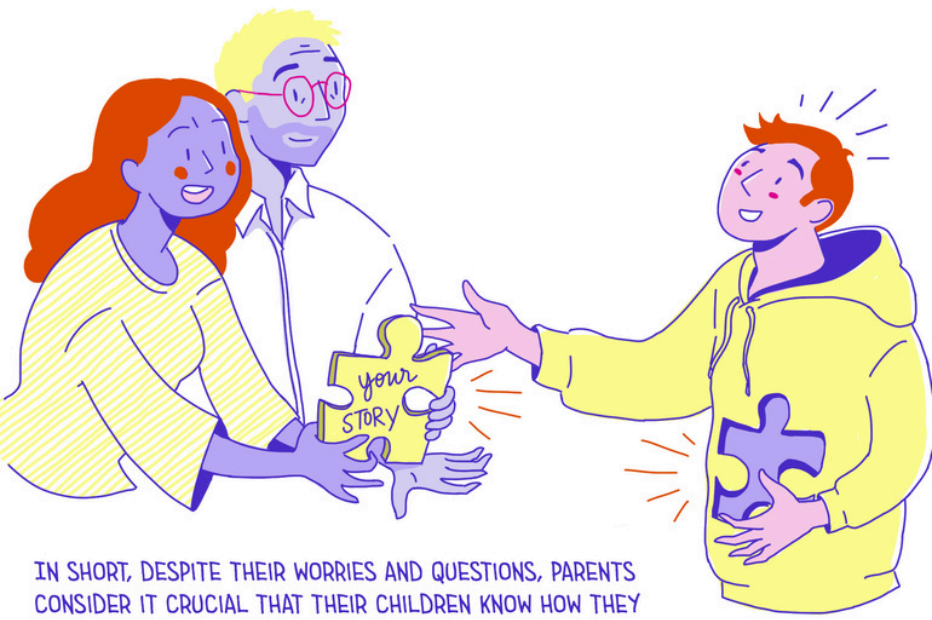


MANY PARENTS USE CHILD-FRIENDLY METAPHORS TO EXPLAIN TO THEIR CHILDREN HOW THEY WERE CONCEIVED.



ADOLESCENTS' REACTIONS TO THE DISCLOSURE ARE VARIED. BUT MOST OF THEM ARE COMFORTABLE WITH BEING DONOR-CONCEIVED.

...AND I FEEL AS UNIQUE AS ANYONE ELSE...



IN SHORT, DESPITE THEIR WORRIES AND QUESTIONS, PARENTS CONSIDER IT CRUCIAL THAT THEIR CHILDREN KNOW HOW THEY WERE CONCEIVED. WITHOUT RESOURCES AND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT, PARENTS NEED TO RELY ON THEIR INTUITION TO KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO TELL THEIR CHILDREN THAT THEY USED A DONOR TO CONCEIVE THEM. THIS DOESN'T MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THE CHILDREN HAVE HAD A BAD EXPERIENCE OF BEING TOLD HOW THEY WERE CONCEIVED.

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