

# HOW DO CHILDREN OF SURROGATES REACT WHEN THEY ARE TOLD ABOUT THEIR MOTHER'S SURROGACY?

## CONTEXT

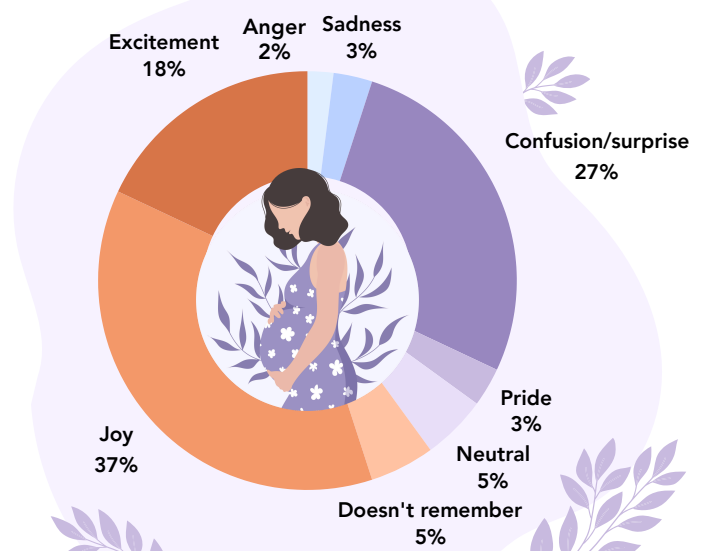
Surrogacy has been studied extensively, but little is known about **the children who witness their mother's surrogacy**.

That's why our research team wanted to know more about the **perceptions** and **experiences** of these children.

## METHODOLOGY

Our research team conducted interviews with **62 young participants** from 34 families, mainly in Quebec and in Ontario.

## EMOTIONS FELT WHEN TOLD THEIR MOTHER'S SURROGACY



**Joy** is the most common emotion young people felt when they are told about their mother's surrogacy.

## WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY

The results show that when the mother has taken the time to explain the surrogacy project before the pregnancy begins, **her children respond positively**.

These explanations generally cover topics such as:

- *what surrogacy is and how it works;*
- *what motivated the mother to become a surrogate;*
- *why the intended parents decided to have a child through surrogacy.*

The young people who said they were **surprised** or **confused** mentioned that they had never heard of surrogacy before their mother told them about it. This was the case for ten-year-old Roselynn:

I was kind of confused at first because I have never heard of any of that at the time. (...) We were confused, we were asking lots of questions like, "How would the baby get in there?" (..) but once we started learning, we were progressively getting more excited.

**To conclude, young people's reactions to the news of their mother's surrogacy ranged from joy to confusion and sadness. When young people were already aware of their mother's plans and had answers to their questions, they reacted more positively.**