

# Boy or girl?

## Location

Ground floor, All About Us exhibition

## In a nutshell

Will the baby be a boy or a girl? The journey to birth is epic. At this exhibit, meet the main characters involved.

## What to do

Using the touch screen visitors can learn about the male and female sex cells (gametes). The exhibit starts with a short video showing a sperm cell fertilising an egg cell. The fertilised egg then divides (mitosis). Visitors can also take a tour of both the male and female reproductive organs.

## Time Required

KS1 & KS2 2-3 minutes per student.

## What's happening?

The egg is spherical in shape and carries 22 chromosomes plus an X chromosome. An egg is released roughly once every 28 days, usually alone and all eggs are made before a female is even born, the only thing left is for them to mature. They are nourished by cells in the lining of the Fallopian tube and carry nourishment for the embryo as well as the nucleus.

Each sperm cell consists of a small oval head, which contains the nucleus and a long thrashing tail. The sperm cell carries 22 chromosomes plus an X or Y chromosome which decides the sex of the baby. Boys have a Y chromosome, whilst girls inherit a second X chromosome. Males don't start producing sperm until they reach puberty. Around 250 million sperm cells are released but only one will reach the egg. The sperm cells use their tails to propel them on their journey and can reach speeds of up to 2cm per minute.



## Curriculum links

<b>KS1/2</b>	<b>Science - Living things and their habitats</b>
	- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals
	<b>English - Spoken language</b>
	- listen and respond appropriately to adults and their peers - ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge - maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments <b>Computing - Key stage 1</b> - recognise common uses of information technology beyond school

## Relates to:

Workshops & Theme Days	Shows	Trails	Other exhibits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Body Basics (KS1)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>How my body works (KS2)</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Before birth</li><li>How to build a human</li><li>Inside a womb</li></ul>

