



Enhancing the News

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All in the Genes

One in twenty newborn babies are affected by genetic disorders that can have an effect on growth, development or health, and many of these conditions are life threatening and incurable.

“Many of the health or developmental problems seen at birth are either directly due to a fault in the genetic information, or are due to a combination of the inherited genetic information and environmental causes”, as published on the Centre for Genetics Education website.

Scientists are constantly working to try to prevent these diseases before they occur in children, and to develop better treatments for those living with a genetic condition.

The following resources may help students understand genetics and a range of genetic disorders. [Scope: Genetics](#) asks what are genes, how do they actually work and what is DNA? and looks at genetic traits and genetic modification. Episodes from the Atoms Alive series: [DNA – Regulation and Mutation](#), [Recombinant DNA](#), [DNA Technology](#) and [Genetic Issues](#) explore DNA and genetics. [The Ghost in Your Genes](#) explores the genetic discovery of Epigenetics, which reveals the hidden influences upon genes that could affect every aspect of our lives. [Big Questions: The Nature of Scientific Enquiry – Mendel and the Gene Splicers](#) focuses on the scientist Mendel and his work with genes, genes and family characteristics, and inherited illnesses.

[60 Minutes](#) contains the story, ‘Progeria’, that looks at the incurable genetic disease that causes sufferers’ to age dramatically, and [Ok, Let’s Talk About Me](#) follows Eddie Jenkinson’s, a young boy with Down Syndrome, journey to independence. ([Study guide](#) available) The [Jabe Babe: A Heightened Life study guide](#) accompanies the documentary that provides an insight into the life of Jabe Bromhall, who lives with the life threatening genetic condition Marfan Syndrome. [The Girl Who Lives in the Dark](#) presents the story of a young girl who suffers from Xeroderma Pigmentosum, a rare genetic disorder, which makes her skin unable to repair itself after exposure to U.V. light. [The Boy in the Bubble](#) tells the story of a boy who was born without a working immune system as a result of the

genetic disease, Severe Combined Immunity Deficiency.

