



# FACTS ABOUT GENES

A genetic disorder is not caused by anything that a mum does while the foetus is developing in the uterus and you cannot catch it from someone. It is just something that some children are born with.

Sometimes there is a mistake in a gene – part of it might be missing or be in the wrong place. When this happens, it might mean that a child is blind, or cannot walk, or has to take medicine each day. This is called a genetic disorder.

Each gene has a special job to do and carries the instructions for making proteins. Proteins are the building blocks for everything in our body – they make our bones, our blood, our teeth, our hearts and even our earlobes!

Our bodies are made up of approximately 50 trillion cells.

Inside the nucleus of each cell are around 20,000 genes.

We inherit half of our genes from our mum and half from our dad.

Genes carry information that help your body know how to grow, develop and function.

