

CLASSROOM SCENE

- Excuse me -what is going on in here?
- Turn that music off right now!
- This is a classroom – not a dance hall!!
- Everybody sit down!!
- Now – I'm giving you a chance today, but if I ever get that kind of behavior in here again, all of you going straight to the Principal's office.
- Take out your Biology books, let's get to work.
- Now - we are studying Sexual Reproduction. Today we will go over what we did last week and you will have a test next lesson – so pay attention!
- *Last lesson we learned that the sperm and the egg come together to form a new cell which will grow into the baby – a new human being.*
- *Now before a baby is born we don't know whether the child will look like their mother or more like their father, whether they will be tall or short, have black eyes or brown eyes – and we don't know whether they will be a boy or a girl.*
- *But inside that new cell there are some very tiny structures called chromosomes. There are 46 of them in the cell and they are found in pairs – 23 pairs of chromosomes.*
- *22 of those pairs carry information about the body – the hair colour, the eye colour, the shape of your face – all sorts of information on what that child will look like.*
- *The last pair of chromosomes is special. They are called the sex chromosomes. They carry the information about whether the baby will be a boy or a girl.*

- *There are 2 types of sex chromosomes - the X chromosome and the Y chromosome.*
- *When the chromosomes pair up, you can have an X chromosome pairing with another X chromosome – we call that XX. In that case you will have a baby girl.*
- *You can have an X chromosome pairing with a Y chromosome – we call that XY. In that case you will have a baby boy.*
- ***Student asks a question as to whether it happens this way all the time or if there are exceptions.***
- *Yes, there are some very rare cases in which the chromosomes do not develop normally or do not behave normally. In this case the child may have unusual development in their sexual organs or may develop some type of illness. But these are very rare – like maybe 1 in every 10 000 persons. In such cases the doctors try to figure out what is the best thing to do.*
- ***Student tells a story about herself – she was born with 12 fingers but, when she was a baby, surgery was done to remove 2 of them.***
- *Wow -that's a very good example of how things can go wrong and the doctors try to figure out the best thing to do.*
- *So remember – if there are 2 X chromosomes paired – that is XX, you will have a baby girl, and if there is an X chromosome paired with a Y chromosome – that is XY – you will have a baby boy.*
- ***Zoe raises her hand...***