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Why are people interested in studying twins?

As a parent of twins or other children born as a multiple birth you will know they are special. Some of the research is to help you and families like you find out more about multiple pregnancies and the needs of children from multiple births, and their families.

In other research, families like you can help other people. Since the children were born at the same time they can be compared. This helps us to learn more about how far diseases relate to the genes we inherit from our parents, and how far they relate to our surroundings and the way we live.

Why should I join?

It will give you the opportunity to take part in approved research, and, even if you do not take part, to hear about how the research is progressing. It is important that as many people as possible take part in the studies so that we can get the most complete picture of different types of families with multiple births.

Who will be included?

Initially twins born in England and Wales in 1994–1996.

As funding allows, we hope to extend the register to include older twins and higher order multiple births and possibly those in Scotland.

Can other twins join?

Not at the moment, but we hope that it will be possible for other twins to volunteer in the near future.

What will I have to do if I join?

Please return the enclosed card in the pre-paid envelope. Then all we ask is that you let us know if you change your address.

What will I receive?

Once a year you will receive a newsletter from Twins Plus telling you about progress on research, and information about new research which is likely to be of interest to you.

Who decides if research is worthwhile?

Agroup of experts who have experience in working with twins has been brought together. Representatives of parents' organisations are included.

What happens when my children are older?

When your children are 18 we will ask them if they wish to continue to be members of Twins Plus.

Will you give my name to anyone else?

NO. No information about you or your children will be passed on without your permission.

Will it cost me anything?

<u>N</u>

Contact Points