Congratulations!

You (and a partner ?) are about to have a baby!  Will it be a boy or a girl?  You’ll have to determine that.  Over the week, you’ll be using the laws of probability to determine the alleles that you’ll donate to your new bundle of joy.  You’ll then be able to determine its gender, genotypes, and phenotypes.  Will it have your eyes and your partner’s nose?  Will there be 10 little fingers and 10 little toes? Soon you’ll be able to make a picture of what your baby will look like for lots of these traits.

Just as it is with any other pregnancy, good prenatal care is important and your doctor will most likely suggest that you and your partner visit a geneticist for some testing.  Your genetic counselor will need to analyze family histories, karyotypes, and construct pedigrees to determine your baby’s likelihood of inheriting a genetic disorder.   Should you give birth to a baby with special needs, you and your partner will need to be able to explain how the genetic disorder impacts the physical, mental, and emotional needs of the baby.   Best of luck to you and your new family!

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Best of luck to you and your new family!