


Game B: The Son/Daughter Game



Purpose:

To show how a baby's sex is determined by the man's sperm, even though the man and woman both contribute to a pregnancy.

Materials:

- Seed game cards (Cards 40-42) - Light Blue 
- 20 or 30 small seeds, beads, or small paper balls of the same size in two different colors (example: green and yellow)

Take Away Message:

The sex of the baby is determined by the sperm of the man, which can be male or female. Women's eggs are all female.

Introduction:

Today we are going to focus on an important issue in the community - having girl children and boy children, and what we expect and want related to having children. We are going to play a game which shows us that the sperm of the man or husband determines the sex of the child.

Discuss:

- ? What happens if a family has sons and no daughters?
- ? What happens if a family has daughters and no sons?
- ? Why do you think the reaction is different?
- ? What kinds of challenges do women or men face when they have no sons or no daughters?

How to Play:

- Gather participants in the center of the room. Explain that this game will show how a baby becomes male or female.
- Hold up the sperm card (card 41) and the ovum card (card 42). Tell participants that in order to make a baby, the sperm from the man has to meet the ovum, or egg, from the woman, inside the woman's womb.
- Hold up the ovum card and tell participants that the ovum from the woman can only be female. Hold up one color of seed (example: yellow) and say that this represents the female egg.
- Hold up the sperm card and tell participants that the sperm from the man

can be female or male. Hold up the other color seed (example: green) and say that this represents the male.

- Divide participants in half and have them stand in two lines facing each other. If the group is mixed and if it is possible, it is most clear if men and women represent their own sex. Either way, one half of the participants is representing women while the other half is representing men.
- Explain that the “women” have two seeds of the same color because women only produce “female” seeds. The “men” have two different seeds because men produce sperm, which can be male or female.
- Give all the “women” 2 yellow seeds. Give all the “men” 1 yellow seed and 1 green seed.
- Have the “women” stand in one line and hold one seed in each hand behind their backs. Tell the “men” also to stand in another line facing the “women” and hold one seed in each hand behind their backs, so that they don’t know which seed is in which hand.
- Ask the “woman” and “man” at the front of the line to demonstrate:
 - First ask both the “woman” and the “man” what sex of baby they want, a boy or a girl.
 - Then the “man” without looking at the seed he has, should give one seed to the woman.
 - The woman should hold the seeds so that all people can see them.
 - **If the two seeds match, the baby will be a girl. If they are different, it will be a boy.**

Go down the line and have each “couple” that is facing each other “make a baby” by **asking the “man” to give one seed to the “woman” without looking at the seed color. The “woman” should now have two seeds.** Once all of the couples have made their baby, ask them to come back to the center of the room.

Using card 40, explain that while women and men both contribute to the sex of the baby, it is the man’s sperm that determines whether the baby will be a boy or a girl. Ask the “men” if they knew which seed they were contributing: explain that because each sperm can be either male or female, no one can control or know which the baby will be.

Discuss:

? Earlier we discussed how some women are treated poorly when they don’t have sons.

- What is one thing you learned today that you would share with a friend or family member?
- **Please talk with your health provider if you have questions or are interested in family planning.**