



Collecting DNA Samples

TheKidsSpot.com has created this do-it-yourself DNA collection checklist to help make collecting DNA simple and inexpensive. With a few household items, you can collect a DNA sample and store it in your home for up to 2 years. Please follow directions carefully.

You will need:

- (2) heavy duty zip lock freezer bags
 - (2) Sterile Cotton Tipped Applicators - OR (2) Q-tips from a new sealed package. If Q-tips are two ended, cut off one end
 - Fingernail clippers
 - Scissors
 - (2) Sheet of white paper
 - (2) Envelopes
 - Permanent marker
1. Cut about 20 head hairs close to the scalp (you do not need the root), place in an envelope.
 - A) Have the child lick the envelope (if they can) and close.
 - B) Label the envelope with the child's name and who licked the envelope.
 2. Clip at least 3 fingernails, place in the second envelope. Follow steps 1A and 1B.
 3. Collect buccal cells from inside the child's mouth using the Sterile Cotton Tipped Applicators or Q-tips.

Make sure the child does not eat or drink anything for 30-60 minutes prior to taking the sample.

Wash your hands thoroughly before and after - do not touch the cotton tip at anytime.

If possible, wear sterile gloves.

Take 1 sample from each cheek.

Collect the sample by rolling the cotton swab for about 10 seconds along the gum line of the mouth, preferably near the lower back, between the cheek and gum.

Place swabs on white sheet of paper and cover with second sheet to air dry for 24 hours.

Place 2 dried swabs inside the zip lock bag.
 4. With a permanent marker, label the swab zip lock bag with child's name, date of collection, and the name of the person who took the sample.
 5. Place hair samples, fingernails, and swab bag inside the second zip lock bag. Label this bag with the same information as the swab bag. If you

- have a baby tooth, you may also place it inside this bag. If your child skins their knee or other body part, wipe it with cotton gauze, let the gauze air dry thoroughly and then place it in this bag. As you add to the bag, note and date.
6. Store in the freezer for up to two years.

Other Helpful Tips

If you are trying to fingerprint a child under the age of three, the best time to do it is when they are sleeping. The best fingers to get when fingerprinting a child that age is their thumb and index finger.

The best way to get a DNA sample is via saliva. You can use a Q-tip from your bathroom. It is suggested that you redo it every 2 years.

Remember, the most important line of defense in the search for a missing child:

- 1) photo
- 2) fingerprints
- 3) DNA
- 4) medical records
- 5) dental records.