

# DNA Collection



## **DNA helps find a missing child.**

The following recommendations can be used to obtain DNA samples from your child.

Use several cotton swabs to collect DNA inside your child's mouth:

- Swab the cheek area instead of the teeth.
- The swabs with the sample cannot touch another object.
- Place the swabs in a zip-lock baggie and label the outside of the bag with your child's name and the date.
- Place the baggie in a freezer immediately or within one hour.
- If you are not able to freeze immediately, let the swabs air dry by sticking the ends without the DNA sample upright in clay or play dough. After the swabs are dry, place them in a baggie, label the baggie with your child's name and the date. Place the baggie in your freezer.

Store your child's old toothbrush in a sealed baggie, label, date and put it in the freezer.

Save your child's baby teeth. Store them in an old film canister, label and put it in the freezer.

Collect hair from your child.

- Be sure the hair has a root. The root contains the DNA, not the hair strand.
- Place the hair in an envelope labeled with your child's name. The envelope does not need to be placed in the freezer.
- Collect hair when you wash your child's hair.
  - So as not to cause pain, twist a few hair strands and pull when the hair is wet. Your child will not even know you took a sample.
  - Remember, the DNA is in the hair root.
- Save your child's hairbrush in a baggie, if your child has exclusive use of that brush.

## **Other recommendations to help find a missing child:**

- Carry a current photograph and provide one to relatives and care givers.
- Remember the clothing your child is wearing.
- Teach your child to run and find you and ask permission before going anywhere or taking anything from someone that he does not know.
- Store an old shoe in a sealed container to use for scent.
- Contact your local dentist to participate in "Tooth Prints"