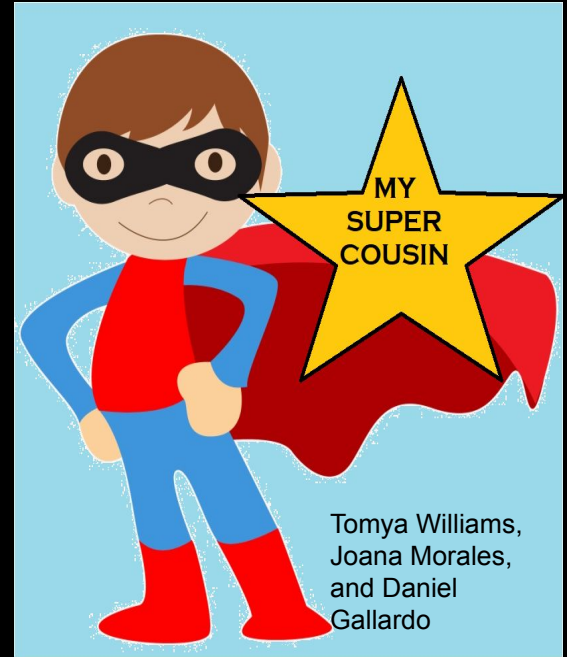


# Super Cousin Project

*(Genetic engineering on humans)*



Tomya Williams,  
Joana Morales,  
and Daniel  
Gallardo

## Plotting the story

We chose a story of a woman who had pregnancy issues that was making use of genetic engineering to make her pregnancy/giving birth successful and a reality ,because this is a real life issue that many women face and have been able to solve thanks to genetic engineering in many shapes or forms. Again we chose to build this story in this way because kids reading it will have more of a connection to the story when the main character is a child like them and show fears that they would. Kids are the future so spreading knowledge on this topic and focusing on it, in regards to newborn children(the future),helps to further our agenda.

## Reason for Choosing Children's Book

We believed that this message would be better suited to target children because genetic engineering is a recently booming field that has a lot of room to grow in, and as children are the future they should be introduced to this topic at a young age.

# Why genetic engineering ?

We picked genetic engineering because it's a topic that is still new to people. Some people might not really know exactly what genetic engineering might be, so we wrote this book as a way for people get introduce to genetic engineering and learn what it is.



# Background information

- Genetic engineering was first invented in 1973
- this process needs laboratory-based technologies to alter the DNA of an organism
- Genetic engineering test subjects are usually mice and zebrafish
- It is used to treat human diseases and disorders



# Plot

After hearing about genetic engineering, James, develops a fear of this technology and his new baby cousin that he thinks is an alien. His stuffed animals take him on an adventure and explain to him that genetic engineering is nothing to fear.



# Characters

JAMES



MR.BEAR



CHRIS



JERRY





**MY  
SUPER  
COUSIN**

**By Tomya Williams, Johana  
Morales and Daniel Gallardo**



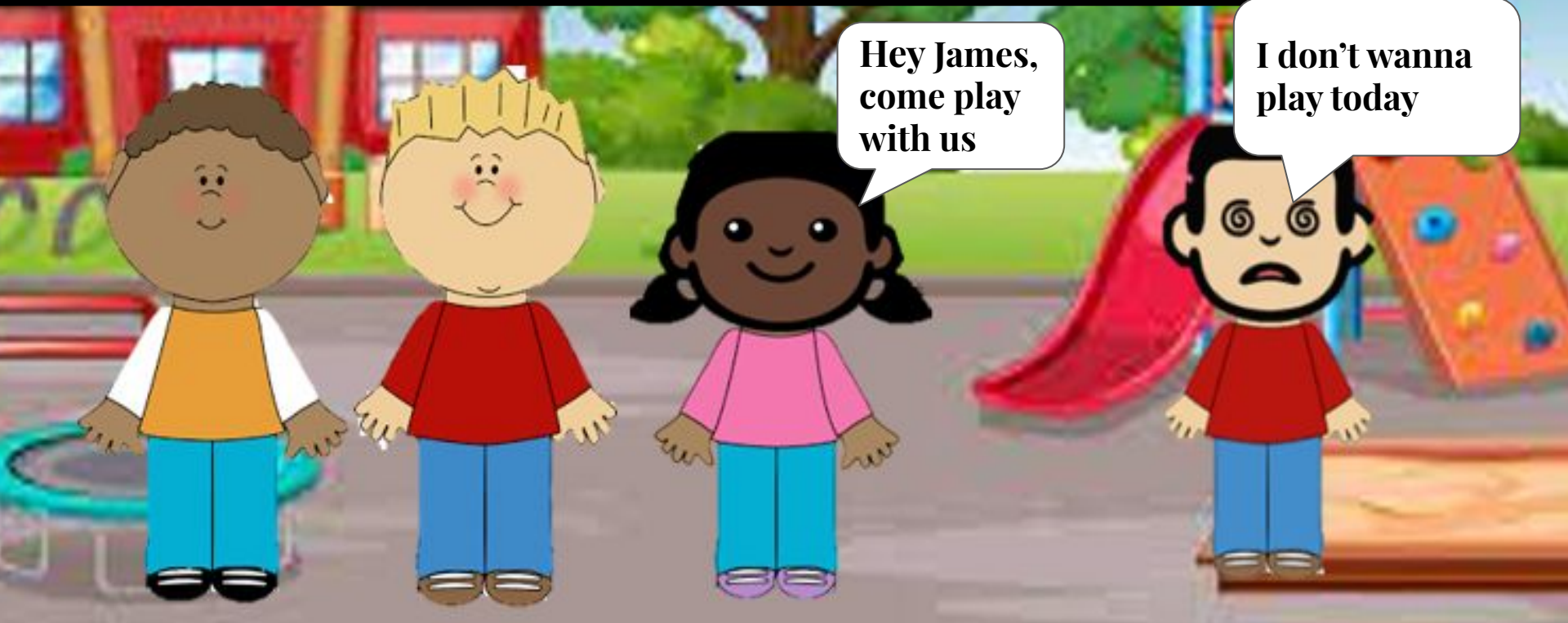
One morning , **James** heard his mom talking on the phone.

She was smiling ear to ear.The voice on the phone sounded like his aunt, Susan.

He sneaked closer and closer until he could hear both his aunt and mom.



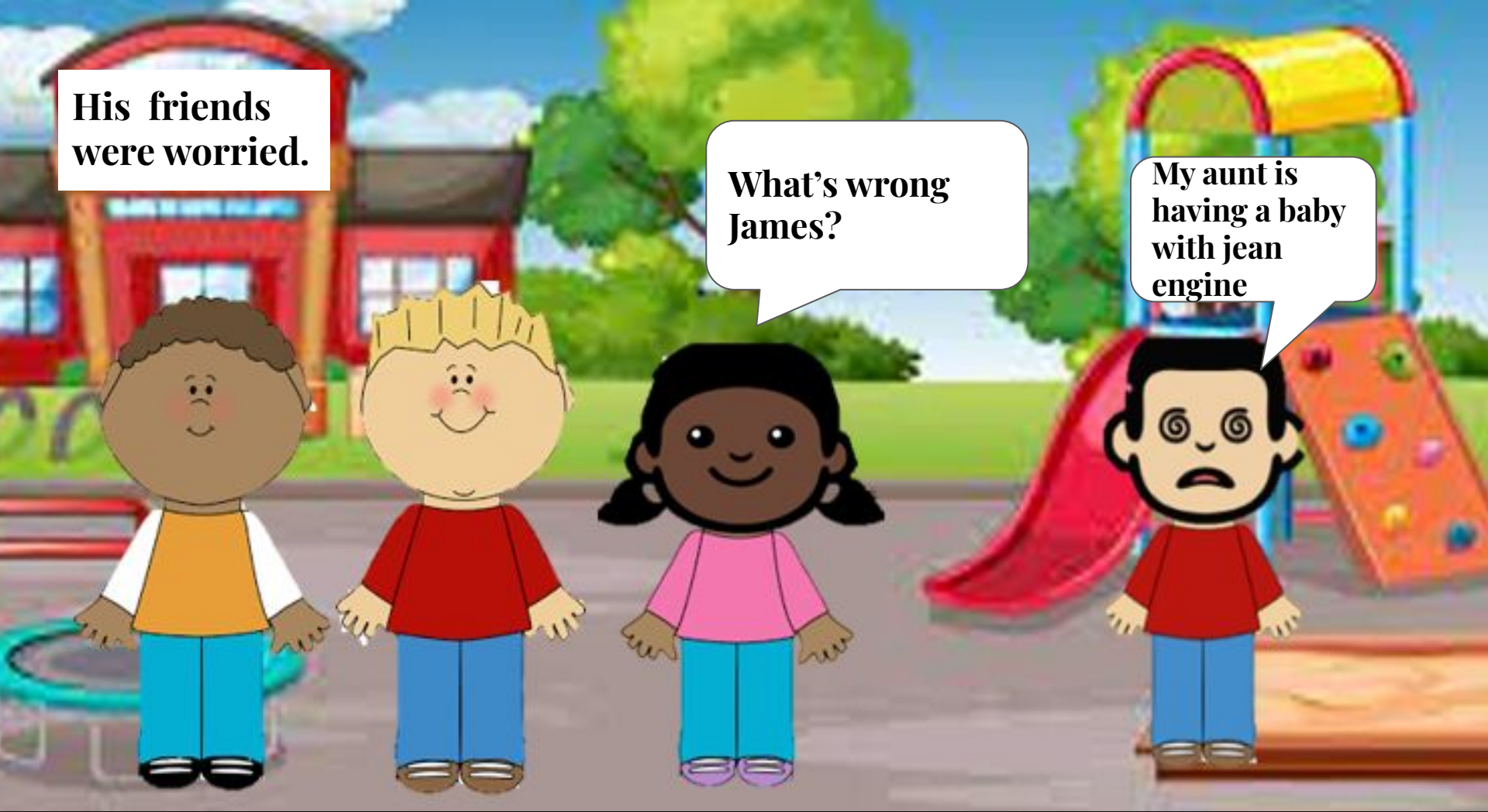
**James** time for school” his Dad said walking to the car **James** followed behind still confused by what his mom was talking about **James** did not play that day at lunch.



**His friends  
were worried.**

**What's wrong  
James?**

**My aunt is  
having a baby  
with jean  
engine**





That can't be true

My mom's friend did it to have a baby, my big brother told me she went to a mad scientist. The baby has super strength and can shoot lasers from his eyes.

Lair! your pants are gonna catch on fire!

His friends looked at him confused. 'I think you mean genetic engineering' **John** says.

What is that?' **James** asked.



Good luck  
dodging lasers for  
the rest of your  
life

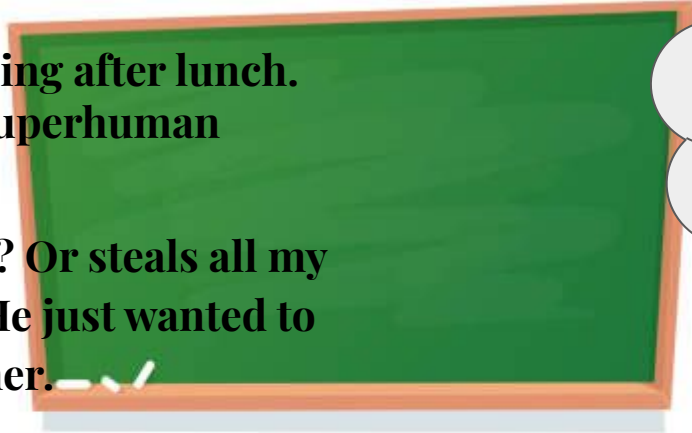
Bye James

NOOO!

**John** told them about the time he saw this super baby pick up a car.  
**James'** fear of the supernatural baby grew bigger and bigger.**John** was about to tell James about the baby's laser eyes when the bell rang.

**James** couldn't focus on anything after lunch. He was so afraid of having a superhuman cousin.

'What if he throws a car at me? Or steals all my toys?' he thought to himself. He just wanted to go home and be with his mother.



School was finally over and **James** was so relieved to be home. He entered the house and his mother hugged him. He hugged her tightly as she asked him how his day was.

Hello **James**,  
how was school  
today?



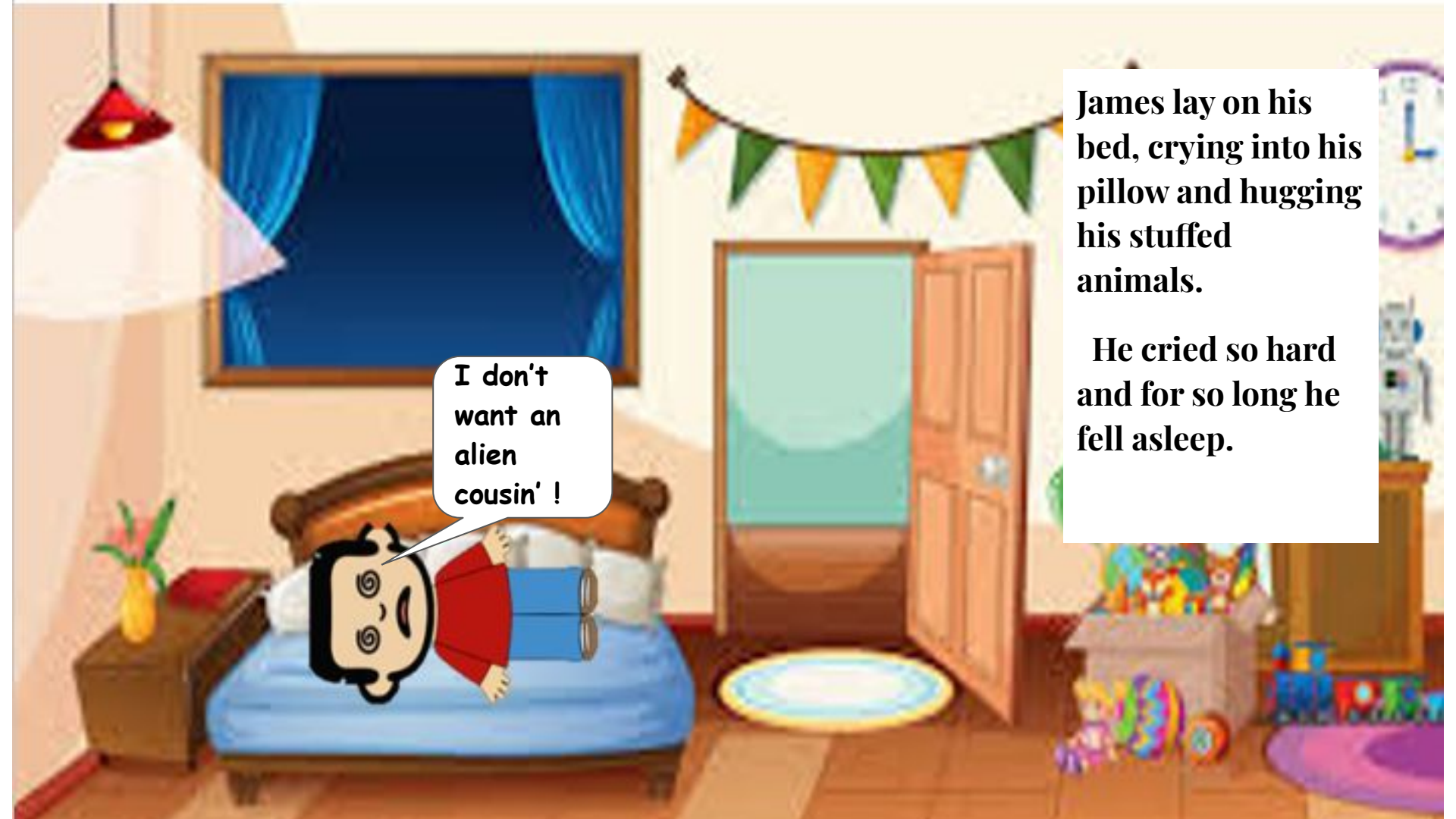
**Just as he was about to answer his aunt came into the room. He got so angry he couldn't control himself and shouted at her.**



**Hello James!**

**You ! How could you have an alien baby?! I hate you!**





**I don't  
want an  
alien  
cousin' !**

**James lay on his  
bed, crying into his  
pillow and hugging  
his stuffed  
animals.**

**He cried so hard  
and for so long he  
fell asleep.**

'Is he alive?' a strange voice says.

'I don't know' another voice says.

**James** opens his eyes and finds a mouse; teddy bear and big pig looking at him. He was not in his room anymore.



James gasped when he realized these were the toys he slept with everynight .His glowing mouse, Jerry, his teddy bear, Mr. Bear and his pig toy, Chris. But how were they talking to him and where was he?



He looked around at the large green field he was standing in and decided he must be dreaming.

His toys gathered around him and hugged him tightly. **James** was so happy to see them.



CHRIS



We heard you were unhappy. Lets walk, what's wrong?



**James** told them he was sad because his aunt was having a baby. His toys cheered at the news.



**Mr. Bear**

Oh, that is wonderful news!



**James**

No its not! She is using genetic engineering to have the baby



James told them everything John had told him on the playground. He told them he is scared of genetic engineering and his future baby cousin.



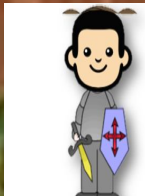
**MR. BEAR**

James do you know what genetic engineering is ?



**JAMES**

Yeah, it makes babies shoot lasers out their eyes.





MR. BEAR

No jakes, we all have genes, they are like building blocks, they have the instructions to give you your hair color and eye color. Genetic engineering is when we change these genes. This is usually a good thing.





**James** was confused. How could genetic engineering ever be a good thing?

**FUN FACT:** Scientists made mice glow by inserting the gene from a bioluminescent jellyfish into their DNA



**Jerry**

Well, look at me, do you think all mice glow in the dark? I can glow in the dark because of genetic engineering and light up your room at night keeping the creatures in the dark away.



**FUN FACT:** Researchers used genetic engineering to increase muscle mass in pigs (compared to normal pigs)

**CHRIS**

I am also so big and strong because of genetic engineering. With these muscles I can fight off all those monsters under your bed.

**JAMES**

Yes! He will be a good and strong super baby?



Mr. Bear, Chris and Jerry all reassured **James** that the baby would be good. He was starting to feel happy again. Even a little excited.



MR. BEAR



It can help people with special conditions which stop them from having children to have healthy babies, like your aunt. They do this by removing some genes that cause these special conditions and can even add the ones that can make someone's life better. Isn't that great?

It was great. James was not afraid of genetic engineering anymore. He was now very excited to have a new cousin. James hugged his friends and lay down on the grass and closed his eyes. He slowly drifted off to sleep.

James woke up and ran downstairs to the dining room. His aunt and mother were setting the table when he entered the room.

What?

Aunt Susan,  
have the  
baby quickly!  
I want to  
play with  
him!



His aunt was confused, so James explained his dream to her. She was so happy, that he was excited for the baby.



I love my Super cousin! I love genetic engineering!



***THE END***

# Things We Could've Changed & Difficulties

- We could've used different picture for the characters of Mr.Bear, Chris, and Jerry
- Explain the process of how genetic engineering is done.
- More information
- Time schedules and editing



# Summary

- We wanted to teach children how advanced technology is now and the many opportunities and possibilities that can be done with genetic engineering.
- This was a little challenging because we were really confused on how a topic like genetic engineering can be even explained to kids. But once we came up with story, everything was starting to come together and make so much sense.



# Thank You for Listening !

Any questions ?

