Instructions for the Hand Clasp Inheritance Activity

*These instructions are also on the presenter notes of the hand clasp slide*

Materials: Genetics Slides, Right and Left cards (templates for the cards are on the next 2 pages)

Once you are on the Hand Clasp slide, but before showing the picture, ask students to quickly clasp their hands together and hold them. Then show the pictures of the clasped hands and ask how many have left on top and then right on top.

Pick a student who has Right on top. Ask “How many chromosomes carried this trait from your parents to you?” Ans.: 2. “So let’s just assume he/she has two for Right.” Give student two cards that say “Right”.

Do the same for a student who has Left on top.

Now say “Pretend I’m going to be the offspring of you two. How many chromosomes carrying this trait will you each give me? (1). OK, let’s do it”. Take a card from each student. Hold up the two cards. “So, I have one Right and one Left. Using what we have learned so far, can you tell me whether I’ll be Right or Left?”.

Hopefully students recognize the answer is “NO!”. They will often say something like “it depends”. Establish that although we know now how the traits get to the offspring we don’t yet understand how they work together to determine a trait once they get there. And that is the place we’re headed now…GENETICS!!

Right

Right

Left

Left