

# The Male Reproductive System



The body parts of a man that are used to make a baby are called the male reproductive system.

It is good to talk to your child about the male reproductive system.

It will help them to learn about:

- erections
- wet dreams
- how babies are made

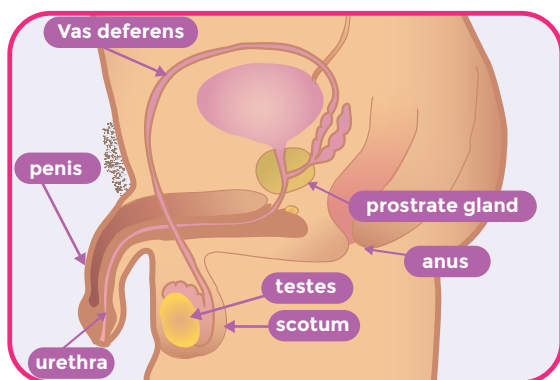


## What is on this page?

This page is about the male reproductive system.

It has information about:

- the different parts of the reproductive system
- the penis
- talking about the male reproductive system
- teaching your child about the male reproductive system



## What are the different parts of the male reproductive system?

There are lots of different parts that make up the male reproductive system.

- The **testes** are where sperm is made

Sperm starts being made when puberty begins.

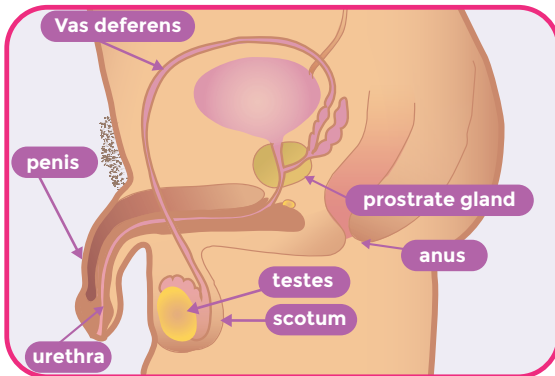
Some people call the testes ‘balls’ or ‘testicles’.

The testes grow bigger during puberty.

They come in different shapes and sizes.

Sometimes one testis is bigger or hangs lower than the other.

This is OK.



- The **scrotum** is the skin that covers the testes

It is usually a bit darker than the rest of the skin on the body.

It may have pubic hairs on it.

- The **vas deferens** is the tube that carries the sperm from the testes to the prostate gland
- The **prostate gland** is where sperm are mixed with liquid called semen

The prostate gland also helps with ejaculation.

- The **urethra** is a tube with a small opening at the tip of the penis

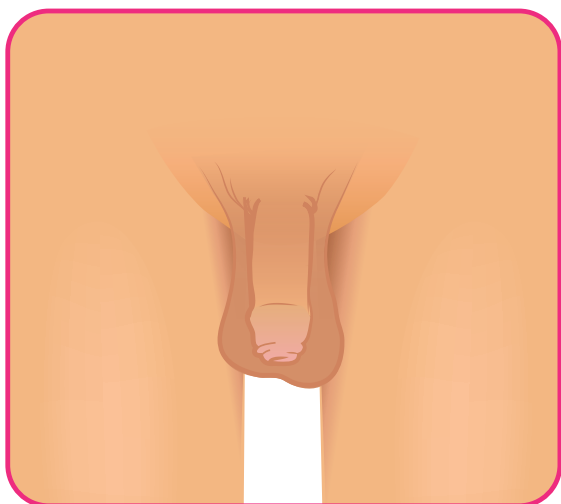
It can carry urine or wee from the bladder, or semen from the prostate gland.

The urethra works so that a person cannot urinate and semen cannot come out at the same time.

- The **penis** hangs outside a man's body

It does lots of things.

There is more information about the penis below.



## The penis

The penis hangs outside the body.

Penises come in all different shapes and sizes.

Some penises are short and thick, some are long and thin, some lean to one side.

The skin on the penis can be darker or redder than other skin on the body.

It can have veins sticking out.

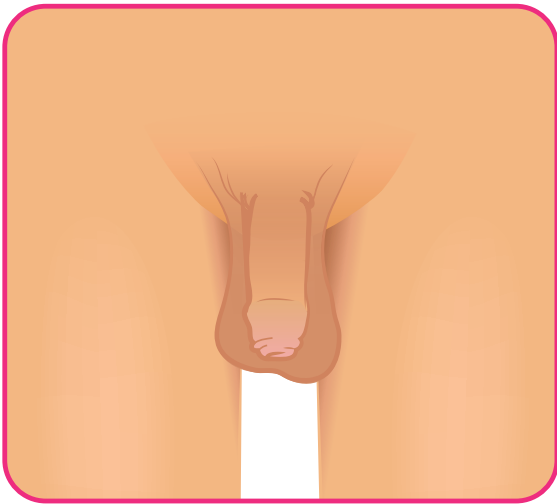
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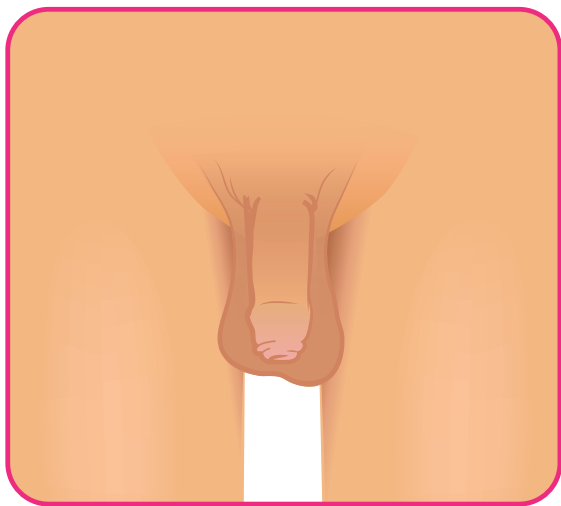
Pubic hair grows around the base of the penis, the testes and the anus.

The penis is involved in lots things, including:

- urination
- erections
- ejaculation (including wet dreams)
- sexual intercourse
- pleasure

To learn more about ejaculation, wet dreams and erections, go to: [Wet Dreams and Erection](#)





The foreskin is a fold of skin that covers the head of the penis.

Some people have their foreskin removed.

This is called circumcision.

The penis works the same way with or without a foreskin.

It is important to clean the penis regularly.

If a person has a foreskin they can keep it clean by carefully washing underneath.

To learn more about keeping the penis clean, go to:

[How to Clean Your Penis](#)



## Talking about the reproductive system

It is good to talk to your child about the different parts of the reproductive system.

Sometimes it can be hard to talk about these things.

You might not know what to say.

Here are some examples of how you can start talking to your child about the male reproductive system.

- You know how you wash your body every day to keep it clean and healthy?

Well you need to wash your penis too.



- You are getting really good at naming your private body parts

Would you like to know what the inside of your private body parts look like?

## Teaching your child about the reproductive system



There are lots of different ways that you can help your child to learn about the male reproductive system.

- Print some pictures of the male reproductive system

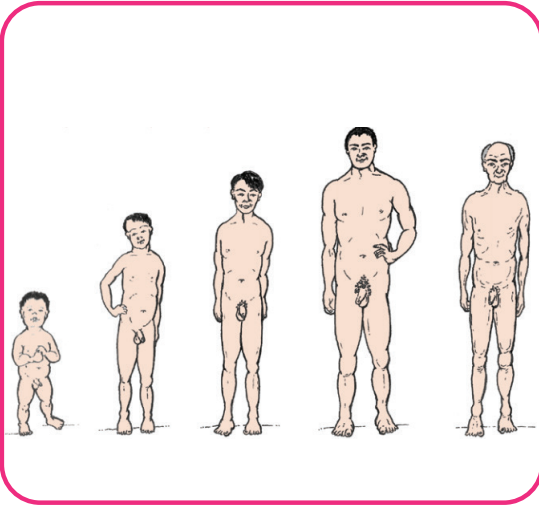
Ask your child to point to the different parts.

Give each part a name as your child points to them.

Ask your child what they think that part does.



- Use everyday moments to talk to your child about the reproductive system, like:
  - helping your child to clean their penis when showering
  - if you notice semen on your child's pyjamas
  - seeing a pregnant woman on the bus



## Resources for you to use

### All About Sex: A Man's Body

[www.fpnsw.org.au/sites/default/files/assets/factsheet\\_04\\_a\\_mans\\_body.pdf](http://www.fpnsw.org.au/sites/default/files/assets/factsheet_04_a_mans_body.pdf)

**BODY  
TALK**

### Body Talk: Boy Stuff

<https://bodytalk.org.au/puberty/boy-stuff/>



## What to read next:

- [The female reproductive system](#)
- [How babies are made](#)

For more information go to the  
Planet Puberty website

[www.planetpuberty.org.au](http://www.planetpuberty.org.au)