

Courtney Ensz  
*Relative Juxtapose Fingerprints*

This experiment was to determine if fingerprint styles can be genetically passed from a parent to a child. Each participant was given a short survey and informed consent forms for children under eighteen. The survey asked what color of eyes they had and what parents' traits they felt they inherited the most. Eight intact families were chosen to participate. Beginning with Family A, each family member had their right index finger and left thumb inked and rolled on fingerprint cards. Each participant was given a towlette to clean their fingers and the fingerprint card was marked to identify whose fingerprint it was. The names of the participants were removed from the fingerprint cards and were replaced with Family A, Family B, and so forth. The results of this experiment were that 85% of the children tested were a match to the parent that they said they would match. Another 7% of the children matched one of their parents fingerprints when the parents had two different styles of fingerprints. The other 7% did not match the parent that they said they would. The total children that matched or half matched at least one parent was 93% and 7% did not match either parent. This experiment is significant because it can help identify family members that may be missing. Even though identification is determined by DNA and retina testing, fingerprinting has a viable future.