



In our counselling session for fertility treatment we were asked “what would happen if we had a boy” – if it was worded like this, not had we a gender preference, did we think we would find one gender easier to raise than another, which might be questions perhaps you would ask any would be parents, but it felt like there was a clear message behind this question.

We did have a boy – and when he was 17 months he needed a biopsy – and my partner signed the consent form which stated she had parental responsibility and the hospital refused to accept her signature on the form – we were highly anxious that we did not delay the procedure any longer as he had not eaten for hours so did not make a fuss and I re-signed the form – but it made us put on all his medical notes, in all hospitals where he has treatment, copies of the PR form so we are never in that situation again.

Health visitors would ask us what they should write when we went for his check-ups - as they did not know how to write both mums attended the clinic.

However we have had great A&E experiences when both nurses and Dr's have just asked what are relationship is to our son, and then would say things like “Mums would you like to step this way?”, just automatically accepting the situation and making it easy for our son.



Models have been used to protect the story-teller's anonymity