

Precision education: DNA test for intelligence could be on the horizon

Ready for a world in which a \$50 DNA test can predict your odds of earning a PhD or forecast which toddler gets into a selective preschool? Robert Plomin, a behavioral geneticist, says that's exactly what's coming.

For decades genetic researchers have sought the hereditary factors behind intelligence, with little luck. But now gene studies have finally gotten big enough—and hence powerful enough—to zero in on genetic differences linked to IQ.

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Plomin outlined the DNA IQ test scenario in January in a paper titled "[The New Genetics of Intelligence](#)," making a case that parents will use direct-to-consumer tests to predict kids' mental abilities and make schooling choices, a concept he calls precision education.

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Others say the great question will be when it is acceptable to prejudge people from DNA profiles. We'd probably want to tell people if their DNA says they are at risk for addiction, for example. Maybe they won't pick up that first cigarette. But what does it mean to tell parents their kid is at risk of being smart or dumb?

He says polygenic scores for IQ will further reveal the role of intelligence in determining people's salaries, their choice of partners, and even the structure of society. People will want to know.

Read full, original post: [DNA tests for IQ are coming, but it might not be smart to take one](#)