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- Friday, May 23, 2003
Genomic Imprinting and Brain Development: Cognitive Consequences.

Genomic imprinting, a newly discovered and significant form of gene regulation, refers to the differential expression of a gene depending on whether it is inherited from the male or female parent. The genetic conflict theory of genomic imprinting postulates that conflicts between the genetic interests of mothers, fathers, and their offspring, as well as asymmetric genetic relationships with maternal and paternal kin, led to an evolutionary 'arms race' within the genome, which resulted in the expression of these conflicts at the phenotypic level. This paper provides background and evidence regarding genomic imprinting and its role in brain development, describes the cognitive and behavioral phenomena that have been interpreted in terms of the genetic conflict model, and points to potential avenues of further research.

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