



Thin line divides family unit

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LIKE brother, like sister doesn't really work in the Drummond family.

While youngest child Georgia has struggled with her weight all her eight years, Dylan, 10, and Katelyn, 11, have never had to worry.

Researchers at the Mater Children's Hospital in Brisbane and the University of Queensland have joined forces to investigate why.

The Drummond siblings, who attend Mt Gravatt East State School, are part of a one-year study into the genetic, environmental and behavioural forces behind childhood obesity.

Pediatric physician Gary Leong said children in the study would undergo blood and urine tests and scans to assess their risks for heart disease and diabetes.

"We want to find out why is it that in the same family like the Drummonds, you have such a major difference. It's very

common but we don't know why," Dr Leong said.

As part of the study, the children's mother Pauline will attend a 20-week positive-parenting program to learn strategies for dealing with the stress surrounding food, eating and dieting that children face.

"You can't isolate the obese child, putting blame on to the child," Dr Leong said.

"The whole family has to make a positive, healthy change in their lifestyle."



ON the go ... Dylan Drummond is all activity yesterday while his sister Georgia contentedly lies back at their Springwood home.
Picture: Liam Kidston